

Design check on old people's home where 18 died

Senior county officers and fire brigade officials meet in Nottingham today to try to seek causes of fire that killed 18 people in an old people's home on the outskirts of the city early yesterday. The Nottinghamshire county architect

said the design of the Fairfield Home at Edwalton met all by-law requirements when it was built 14 years ago. A point to be considered now was whether the requirements were stringent enough for housing so many old people.

Three women aged 99 saved

Arthur Osman (Consortium of Local Authorities Special Programme) said the cause of the fire that killed 18 people, mostly by ignition, in the early hours yesterday at the Fairfield Home, Edwalton, in the suburbs of Nottingham, was still not known. Sixteen men and two women died. All were in their eighties or 90s. The dense smoke and darkness made it difficult for the fire-fighters to see the fire. Some had been given oxygen by the night staff. The 31 survivors, 18 men and 13 women, were taken to hospital for treatment for respiratory trouble and inhalation of smoke. The three women, aged 99, among the rescued, were taken to Fairfield Home, which is administered by Nottinghamshire County Council and built 14 years ago under the

Clasp (Consortium of Local Authorities Special Programme) Office laboratory in Nottingham, who had been sifting through the debris during the day, said: "At the moment it is impossible to find the seat of the fire, and most witnesses are too shocked to talk to us. Some may have been smoking, but we just do not know at this stage what started it." The home, which had oil-fired central heating, had no sprinkler system. Several witnesses spoke of flames suddenly "abooming" through the false ceiling beneath the main outer roofing of the building, apparently having burnt unseen for some time and then been driven by a strong wind. The furniture in the home was mainly wooden-framed with light upholstery. Today there will be a conference in Nottingham of senior officers, including Mr Raymond O'Brien, the chief executive, Mr Albert Thornhill, chief fire officer, and Mr Henry Swain, county architect. Their first priority will be to

see if there was sufficient staff cover at night and whether steps should be taken to increase this cover at the county's 40 other old people's homes, 10 of which are similar to Fairfield. They will also discuss the suitability or otherwise of the building's fabric. Materials used in the building of the home consisted primarily of a steel frame, plaster sound linings, timber for the roof and clay tiles. Mr Henry Swain, Nottinghamshire county architect, said those traditional materials met all local by-law requirements of the time. An important point that now has to be considered is whether they were stringent enough for a building housing so many old people", he said. The Clasp system, he said, was only a matter of prefabricating and making parts in larger sections than normal. Nottinghamshire was a leading participant in the scheme to provide large, light-framed buildings because it had so much land liable to subsidence through mining. The buildings had a flexibility to allow for that. About two thousand buildings had been erected throughout Britain, mainly schools. About a quarter of them were other public buildings. Mr Swain agreed that a fire in a secondary school in a Paris suburb in February last year, in which 21 died, had employed a system developed from the Clasp system. The British consortium received small royalties "for the use of our know-how". Germany, France and Hungary particularly had used the systems developed from Clasp, although, Mr Swain said, "we have no direct responsibility. They have the rights on the design subject to this proviso". Mr Edward Culham, county director of social services, said: "This home was as safe as any in the country, and that was our understanding. The experience here has shown that the two members of staff on duty, Mrs Alice Johnson, the deputy matron, and Mrs Jill Herbert, the night attendant, responded magnificently to the emergency fire procedures, which have been rehearsed and discussed with the fire officers." Fairfield has five "houses", each with 10 residents in individual bedrooms. These buildings are grouped around central dining and lounge facilities. On Saturday night there were only 49 residents in the home. One, Miss Anne Pepper, aged 74, was staying with relatives. Mrs Herbert, who is in the early stages of pregnancy, went on duty at 10 pm, and about



The blackened and burnt-out sections of the Fairfield Home, in which 18 old people died early yesterday.

Photograph by Bill Warhurst

Harder rules for Tory leadership ballot

Freddie Smith said the Conservative Party's first ballot for the leadership would be a vote on whether the party should stand. That is the effect of the recommendations of Sir Alec Douglas-Home's committee, which has advised the processes for the leadership, are implemented by the committee's device of a vote on whether to stand. It is very hard for anyone to stand down in the first round, which would be a vote on whether to stand. It is very hard for anyone to stand down in the first round, which would be a vote on whether to stand. It is very hard for anyone to stand down in the first round, which would be a vote on whether to stand.

But if he does badly on the first ballot there will be strong pressure on him to stand down in favour of Mr Whitelaw, who has consistently said that he was not challenging Mr Heath for the office. At that point other candidates might well come forward. The effect of the proposals is likely to be that MPs can vote for Mr Heath's challenger on the first ballot without feeling that there is too great a danger of installing someone who might not be their first choice. Other proposals in the report are that there should be no change in the electoral college and that there should be regular, but not annual, elections for the leadership. It is taken for granted that there will be such an election in the early months of the new year. There had been pressure for Conservative peers and leaders of the party in the country to be given a vote, but while the report may well recommend improved means of consulting them it is unlikely that it will propose extending the electoral college beyond Conservative MPs. No doubt that was why Mr du Cann, the chairman of the 1972 Committee and a member of Sir Alec's committee, was able to assure the 1972 Conservative Party that there was nothing in the report that was likely to be unwelcome to them. There are no plans yet for the 1972 Committee to meet again this week and the Shadow Cabinet has not yet been consulted. Cumbria waits and Mr Heath's offer, page 2

Agreement near in Martinique on common front of oil consumers

From Fred Emery, Port de France, Dec 15. The Franco-American summit in Martinique got straight down to the key question of oil diplomacy and Western solidarity when it opened today. All immediate signs were that President Giscard d'Estaing was ready to end France's isolation from American-sponsored co-operation by consumer nations. His talks with President Ford in the idyllic setting of this Caribbean island, were described by the French side as "very friendly" and "very thorough". The meeting was conducted in English, in which the French President is fluent. M Jean Sauvagnargues, the Foreign Minister, and Dr Henry Kissinger, the Secretary of State, were present. A parallel meeting on recycling petrodollars and international monetary reform, including the role of gold, was held by M Jean-Pierre Fourcade, the French Finance Minister, and Mr William Simon, the American Treasury Secretary. M Fourcade, one of the rare members of the party to have spoken at the meeting in public, had stated his expectations "concrete results" - not just a harmonization of views. The main element of the French position is to pursue a "concertation" of policies. The word, which implies getting together at singing in harmony, is not unison, baffles the Americans. Much breath and ink is being expended in trying to determine whether this concertation is as good as getting the French "back on board", which is how Mr Ford would like to see the Western alliance.

Ever since the Washington energy conference last February the United States has wanted to organize, in effect, a common front of oil consuming countries to approach the oil producers at an eventual conference. Initial French opposition to the idea has diminished markedly. What remains is to devise the form of words to create a synthesis of French and American views. This would ensure that the consumer nations would go into the conference minutely well prepared to ensure their unity of purpose while averting (as the French wish) the appearance of confrontation. Since the idea will be at least to stabilize oil prices, it is hard to see how such confrontation is to be avoided. The Americans would like to see a three-phase procedure agreed in Martinique: the next three months to be spent in continuing consumer solidarity; then three more months preparing joint consumer positions before the final grand conference with the oil producers is reached. This was explained by that ubiquitous "senior American official" inseparable from Dr Kissinger. He said that the United States did not care about "institutions" but about substance. "It depends on whether the French really want consumer solidarity. If they want it, we'll find a way of bringing it about. But if they want to use the producer conference to undermine consumer solidarity then we have another problem." In fact, this is to be the question as Dr Kissinger well knows. For some time the French have been broadly in favour of consumer solidarity, so it will be no great triumph if this is all that emerges from the summit. In his toast to President Ford last night at the first state banquet, President Giscard spoke of the "concertation" already under way. He said in a passage not amenable to precise translation, that concertation "in no way excluded there being a prior harmonization of positions (on the oil price question) within each of the major force-centred parties". He added, however, a caution to Dr Kissinger's intention to confront the oil producing states. "This presupposes", he said, that the object of this harmonization is to prepare a meeting round one and the same table, at a fixed date, of countries disposed to reconcile their respective viewpoints" in the interest of world peace. On the broader economic question of refuelling versus inflation-fighting the outlook is brighter. Dr Kissinger's verbal denial that President Giscard was given any mandate by the EEC summit to ask President Ford to concentrate now on averting a deepening recession. He suggests that will be left to the finance ministers' meeting. There will be much other discussion, on defence issues, both strategic and in the European context, and on the continuing question of the form to be given to Atlantic consultations. The question of the bitter competition between the latest Royal Air Force bombers produced by France and the United States will not be raised here by the American side.

Price gap holds up EEC sugar deal

From David Cross, Brussels, Dec 15. Arrangements for the delivery of up to 1,400,000 tons of cane sugar to Britain and other parts of the European Community from Commonwealth developing countries are still far from complete. After two days of high-level talks in Brussels, negotiators from the European Commission and the exporting countries failed to settle their differences over the crucial issue of price. At the end of the meeting there was still a gap of at least £35 a ton between the guaranteed minimum price offered by the Community and the figure demanded by the producers. M Pierre Lardinois and M Claude Cheysson, the two Commissioners leading the EEC delegation, suggested a price of about £145 a ton, a figure which lies within the Community's present price range of £138 to £160 a ton. As M Cheysson explained, the Community could not, for political reasons, guarantee growers in the developing countries a higher price than that paid beet sugar producers in Europe. Mr P. J. Fateron, the Jamaican Minister of Trade, and spokesman for the developing countries, described this offer to exporters as "entirely unrealistic". The exporters were holding out for a minimum price of between £180 and £200 a ton for the duration of the new agreement, he said. The developing countries were not impressed by the Community's argument that £145 was a floor price for the exporters and that they would be free to negotiate contracts with importers at prices above this level while the present shortage persisted. Nor were they convinced by the Community's argument that the figure would be indexed to future rises in Community beet sugar prices as a hedge against inflation. Clearly, at this stage in the negotiations the developing countries are unwilling to agree to a long-term guarantee of a minimum price until they know for sure how much extra the British will pay for sugar next year and in 1976. In a further attempt to discover the figure, Mr Fateron and his colleagues will have talks with Mr Frederick Paart, the Minister of Agriculture, in London tomorrow. In London, the exporting countries are expected to press for at least double the Community's minimum guaranteed price while there is a world shortage of sugar. Price rises, page 15

Black Rhodesians talk of 'interim period'

From Michael Knipe, Salisbury, Dec 15. Black and white leaders in Rhodesia indulged in some verbal shadow-boxing this weekend over their fragile agreement to negotiate a constitutional settlement. Mr Robert Mugabe, one of the leading African nationalists newly released from jail, reiterated that the issue was one of immediate transfer of power, but agreed that there would be a period of interim rule during which the legislative changes would be introduced. "We want immediate majority rule accepted as a fact, but we will deal with the mechanics after the fact has been accepted", he said. On the other hand, Mr Smith, the Prime Minister, said that his principles would not change, but "it is possible to regulate your policy and move in different directions in order to fulfil what your principles stand for". Mr Smith said he envisaged multiracial government; Mr Mugabe said majority rule was not necessarily black rule. Mr Smith said it would be at least January or February before the proposed constitutional conference could be staged; Mr Mugabe said the Africans did not want to be stampeded to the conference table and a mutually acceptable date and venue still had to be decided. The situation over the guerrillas' ceasefire remains confused. The Rhodesian Air Force has been dropping pamphlets over the "operational area" and broadcasting messages explaining that the war is over and that the African leaders are free men. From Lusaka it is reported that guerrillas have been dispatched by the guerrilla leaders to instruct the men in the field to cache their arms and withdraw to their base camps in Mozambique and Zambia. The guerrillas are said to number between 350 and 400. Mr Mugabe said that the ceasefire was informal at this stage and would become formal once a date for the constitutional conference was set. In his interview, which was broadcast here tonight, Mr Smith denied that he stood for minority rule. He believed in majority rule, but with a qualified franchise, he said. He was opposed to the counting of heads "like the counting of sheep". He still retained the view that there would never be black rule in Rhodesia in his lifetime. If Rhodesia ever got to a stage of black rule, the Rhodesian Front Government's policy would have failed. "I honestly believe that what

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Hidden death of assassin inquiry

Mr Thorpe, the Liberal leader, conducting his bid in aid of Help the Aged in Trafalgar Square yesterday.



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Mystery over hotel shooting motive

The motive of a man who fired a volley of bullets at the entrance to the Churchill Hotel, Portman Square, London, on Saturday night remained unclear yesterday. Four people suffered slight injuries in the attack.

England trailing by 171 runs in second Test

England need 171 runs to avoid an innings defeat in the second Test in Perth. In reply to Australia's 461, England are 102 for one in their second innings. Cowdrey, appearing as an opening batsman, was dismissed after a gallant 41. His partner, Lloyd, retired hurt.

Greece acts on bases

All foreign military bases which do not serve the interests of Greece will have to be withdrawn, Mr Karamanlis, the Prime Minister, told Parliament yesterday. Mr George Mavros, for the Opposition, spoke of areas where even the Defence Minister has no access.

Miners' pay: Social contract is irrelevant in present claim because men must get bigger rises than other workers, militant leader says

Bench impartiality: Judges are studying a resolution by probation officers urging that social inquiry reports on an accused should be withheld from them until guilty is proved.

Comics: Nine children out of 10 read a comic and the readership of the top two is nearly a million a market research survey has reported

Cornish £1: The Stannary Parliament, revived after 220 years, has authorized issue of a Cornish currency in banknotes without the Queen's portrait.

Middle East: Egypt's call for 50-year ban on Israel immigration will be "diplomatic exercise" in peace move

Centre Point: Mr Harry Hyams has ceded control of Oldham Estates, which includes the Centre Point block, to the Co-operative Insurance Society.

On other pages

- Leader, page 13
- Letters: On Britain and the Middle East, from the Editor; The Guardian and Mr Simon Walker; on Israel and Unesco's work from the Editor-in-Chief of the Unesco Courier; and on the recent disaffection from Mr J. E. Beevor.
- Leading articles: University finance; The Nato meeting.
- Obituary, page 15.
- Sir Morris Fisher, chairman of the Royal Commission on the Press; Dr Kurt Hahn, founder of Gordonstoun; Mr Walter Lippmann, the American political columnist.
- Features, pages 12 and 14.
- Richard Harris continues his East Asia survey, explaining why the Chinese have had their fill of revolutionary zeal; Gwynne Dyer says Israel's nuclear bomb announcement introduces dangerous new rules in the Middle East game.
- Diary: Voice of America tones down its propaganda content to conform with Dr Kissinger's détente policies.
- Arts, page 7.
- William Mann on Scottish Opera's fine Marschallin, and John Higgins on Covent Garden's Faust; Thomas Pakenham reviews Kenneth Griffith's book on the siege of Ladysmith.
- Sport, pages 3 and 10.
- Crickets: West Indies beat India by an innings; Tennis: Vitas wies Masters ride; Skiing: World Cup disqualifications over illegal ski suits; Hockey: English divisional tournament.
- Business News, pages 16-21.
- Business management: The need to balance educational philosophy; Consultants demonstrate their worth.
- Business features: Hugh Stephenson on the Benn adaptation of the Industry Act; America's divided views on the currency; David Blake on the German reflationary measures.
- Business Diary: How happy are the British? EEC's new number plates.

Code may allow inflation accounting

Our price code changes, to allow us to use inflation accounting, are believed to be under consideration by the Government. Depreciation replacement cost rather than book value is believed to be the main proposal.

torture denied

Paul Oestreicher, chairman of the section of Amnesty International, said yesterday that he had visited German prisons to see suspected members of the Bader-Meinbauf guerrillas. He disagreed with M Jean-Paul Asselineau that the treatment of the leader amounted to torture, but he said that the four alleged leaders of the group are being subjected to excessive

M Chirac's victory

M Chirac, the French Prime Minister, has asserted his control over the Gaullist party by getting himself elected its secretary general, despite the disapproval of such party "barons" as M Debré and M Chaban-Delmas.

Fifth rape victim

A rapist who has been attacking women in Cambridge claimed his fifth victim in eight weeks yesterday. She was an American, aged 20, who was attacked in her flat.

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Rough Year?

Have a little smoothness for Christmas.

Dewar's FINE SCOTCH WHISKY
Blended for smoothness—it never varies.

Social contract is irrelevant to miners' wage claim, militant union leader says

By Raymond Perman Labour Staff A left-wing miners' union leader said yesterday that he thought the social contract was irrelevant to his wage claim. Mr Peter Heathfield, Derbyshire area secretary, said miners must get bigger increases than other workers so that the industry could keep its labour force and contribute fully to Britain's energy needs.

Wives down the pit: Miners' wives who went underground at Thoresby colliery, Nottinghamshire, yesterday, said afterwards that their husbands were not paid enough. Mrs Pat Revill, whose husband, Mr Brian Revill, aged 30, is working on £4.5m extensions to the pit, said: "When I see men getting the same money for pushing trolleys in the local hosiery factories I get so mad. Miners should get a lot more than them for the conditions they have to put up with."

Mrs June Marples, whose husband, Mr Henry Marples, aged 35, is a face worker, said: "Working conditions are a lot worse than you would think, and we only saw the best parts of it. I won't be mourning at him when he flops down in an armchair when he comes home now."

No clue to motive for hotel shooting

By Clive Borrell Detectives searching for the person firing a volley of bullets at the entrance of the Churchill Hotel in London on Saturday night were still mystified about the motive for the incident last night. Mr and Mrs William Blair, an American couple staying at the hotel in Portman Square, St Marylebone, were taken to the Middlesex Hospital with slight gunshot wounds. A Swedish couple were treated for shock and cuts caused by flying glass.

Quiet confidence but some reservations about the man who is 'almost too nice' to lead the Tory party

From John Grosse Penrith Reports that the Conservative Party of Westminster in its search for a leader with his roots in the heart of Tory England may turn to anyone other than Mr William Whitelaw are decided in Cumbria. The local party hierarchy, allegedly abetted by the squariness of the whole Northern area, is quietly preparing for the moment next week when Mr Whitelaw finally answers the call.

Back in the taproom, beneath a massive and glowing portrait of Churchill, the farmers seem pleased with the morning's dealing. Their real grouse is against the Government and, in particular, another Cumbrian MP, Mr Fred Peart, and his "shortsighted agricultural policy".

That morale there is high. He is a long-serving party worker and his party loyalty is beyond question. His service is no longer than that of Mr Martin Bramman, who came north from London at the end of the war. Mr Bramman's thermometer said barometer factory on the west coast is a family concern where the industrial troubles last winter were its first. Mr Bramman is also chairman of the policy and resources committee of Cumbria County Council; he twice fought Worthington for the Conservatives, and once got within 7,000 votes of Mr Peart there.

That is not to say that there are no reservations about the MP for Penrith and the Border. "He is almost too nice and friendly," Mr Edwin Irving, a local farmer, says. "But he is honest, and another farmer, Mr Kenneth Lowthian, agrees. We are in the agricultural Hotel near to Penrith, Cattle Mart, which on auction day is the icy scene of Cumbria."

The industry was buoyant until 1973, Mr Lowthian says, "but now our profits are being taxed out of sight. Even our paper profits are being taxed."

What is clear is that there is a deep disenchantment with politicians of all parties. Mr Whitelaw is an exception: to him loyalty seems personal to him rather than to the party.

Half-pay pension offered

By Ronald Kershaw Northern Industrial Correspondent Proposals by the National Coal Board to introduce a superannuation scheme giving miners a weekly pension of up to half the wage at retirement is to be considered by area councils of the National Union of Mine-workers in the next few weeks. It is understood that the union's national executive has recommended acceptance of the scheme. Because of the welter of argument about pay claims the board has been reluctant to publicize the offer made to last week's meeting of the union's executive for fear that it may influence the wages debate.

Mr Joseph Gormley, the union's president and Mr Michael McGahey, the vice-president, will meet the coal board tomorrow for exploratory talks on the pay claim. At last Thursday's meeting of the union's executive Mr Gormley overruled Mr McGahey to secure a victory for miners, so that this claim will be for "substantial" rises instead of for £30 more a week. But militants are determined to keep the claim alive in the coalfields and there will be an attempt to revive the £30 figure when the executive meets on Wednesday to discuss the initial progress of pay talks.

yer available but it is understood that it is scheduled to take effect from next April. Men must have at least 10 years' service to qualify for the new pension. Recipients of the existing retirement pension of £3.60 a week will not qualify, although it is understood that there will be some increase for them. On present basic rates the scheme could mean that underground workers with 10 years' service would draw up to £22.50 a week pension. The board fears that if the superannuation offer is heavily publicized before negotiations on the wage claim begin, rank-and-file miners might tend to discount it as a benefit already won.

Scotland Yard's bomb squad, which deals exclusively with terrorist attacks, is being kept fully informed of the details but is not taking an active part in the investigation. Detective Chief Supt D. C. Hurley wants to interview taxi drivers who were in the Portman Square area at around 8.30 pm on Saturday. They were the last to see anything suspicious which could give us a valuable lead, a senior detective said.

National unity offer by Mr Heath

By David Wood Political Editor Mr Heath confirmed in the roughest terms yesterday that he will stand in a ballot next spring if there is one for the leader of our country's Conservative Party. He also said that his general election proposal for a government of national unity in a worsening economic crisis remained open; that he believed the British people would prefer to stay within the EEC when asked in a referendum; that the social contract was falling to social inflation; and that he remained to be convinced that Mr Wilson, as Prime Minister, had dropped off the fence and would support British membership of the EEC.

Government of National Unity: "That is, of course, a matter for the Prime Minister, but I agree absolutely that the situation nationally is very grave. We have had probably the worst week in our country's history from the point of view of economic results."

looking forward to further increases... This will create price rises and inflation at an ever increasing rate. Mr Wilson and the BBC: Mr Wilson asked if Mr Wilson had dropped off the fence before and during the Paris summit last week. "I would never go so far," he answered, "as to say he was off any fence before or during the summit."

Prayers for peace in Ulster said in 4,000 churches

A joint campaign for peace in Northern Ireland began yesterday, with services and prayers in more than four thousand Irish churches. Leaders of the Roman Catholic Church, the Church of Ireland, the Presbyterians, and the Methodists issued special addresses and a message of support was received from Mr Cosgrave, Prime Minister of the republic. Controversy over the meeting which Northern Ireland Protestant church leaders had with Provisional IRA men last week continued. A six-point peace plan has been passed to the Provisionals, it was learnt yesterday.

Hospital workers urged to accept pay offer

By Our Labour Staff Leaders of the National Union of Public Employees yesterday recommended their members working in hospitals to accept a 19 per cent pay offer, so making it virtually certain that one of the terms of the big pay claims of the bargaining season will be settled within the social contract. The decision was taken by the executive of the union, which represents 110,000 of the 220,000 porters, kitchen staff, ward orderlies and other non-medical workers. The offer would give the lowest-paid staff a weekly basic wage of £30, the TUC target minimum.

Boy of 13 found dead

Carl Alan Fraser, aged 13, of Walton, Stone, Staffordshire, was found hanging when his body was discovered in a tree in a park near to his home on Saturday. The boy had been missing for several days. His death is being treated as a suicide.

Survivors of fire taken out of windows

Continued from page 1 As he did so Mr Richings stood on the outside grabbing them by their heads and shoulders and carrying them some distance from the building. At that point Sergeant Robinson and another officer, Det Constable Ivan Machin, who was involved in the rescue, collapsed through the dense smoke and were taken to hospital. By that time many neighbours had arrived and helped to carry survivors on chair litters to a school near by.

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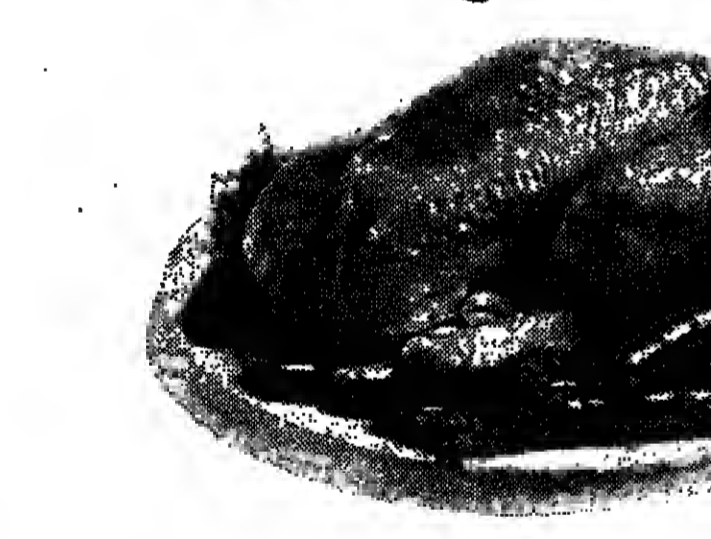
Mrs Whitehouse criticizes BBC 'extravagance'

Before an increase in the television licence fee is granted the BBC should disclose details of its expenditure, Mrs Mary Whitehouse, honorary secretary of the National Viewers' and Listeners' Association, said yesterday. She said she had put the need for more public accountability in the spending of public money to the Prime Minister in a letter at the weekend. "We are very concerned about the BBC's unwillingness to reveal its expenditure on special programmes," she said.

Weather forecast and recordings

NOON TODAY Pressure is shown in millibars. FRONTS Warm, Cold, Occluded. Wind direction, force, gusts. Clouds in eighths. High, low, range. Rain, snow, sleet, hail, fog, mist, drizzle. Sea, moderate or rough. See passages: S North Sea, S of Dover, English Channel, Wind W, moderate or fresh, becoming fresh to strong; sea slight, becoming moderate. St George's Channel: Wind fresh or strong; sea moderate rough. Sea: Wind SW, fresh or strong; sea moderate or rough.

Why bother me with starving families?



I've got enough on my plate this Christmas.

Not everyone will have a full plate this year. At this very moment, many anguished parents are even wondering if their children will see the New Year. World food stocks are at their lowest since the end of the war. Many people in the poor nations could simply starve. Oxfam is fighting hard to meet calls for emergency food. We desperately need your help. But surely this crisis must also make us question our own waste of scarce food resources, and above all make us determined to help the other half of the human family increase their food production for the future. For Oxfam to help poor communities to improve their own farming methods, we need to be able to plan ahead on the basis of a regular income. Even if you can spare only 1% or 1% of your income (1% is £1 a month if you earn £1,200 a year), it will make a world of difference in a hungry corner of the world. For today's emergency, please send whatever you can. Quickly. Just £5 will buy a sack of wheat. If you would like to contribute to constructive development on a regular basis, please fill in the Banker's Order below. You'll never give a more welcome Christmas gift.

URGENT! World Food Crisis. This form is simply an instruction to your bank to pay regularly whatever sum you choose to Oxfam's work. You can of course cancel it at any time by contacting your bank. To: The Manager Bank Name Bank Address Please pay to the account of OXFAM (Incorporated), Barclays Bank, High St., Oxford, (20-55-31, Account 60646784) the sum of £ pounds () on the month/quarter/year on the same day until further notice. Name (Block letters please) Address Signature

TV watch on train hooligans

Closed-circuit television is to be installed at four south London Underground stations to deal with hooligans. The £200,000 system will enable a continuous watch to be kept on platforms and booking halls so that the police can be sent at once if incidents occur. The stations are Brixton, Clapham Common, Clapham North and Stockwell.

Bill seeks sex balance in jobs

There will have to be as many women as men on the boards of public service industries under the Balance of Sexes Bill to be introduced into Parliament in the new year. The Bill sponsored by Mrs Margaret Colquhoun, Labour MP for Northampton, North, would compel ministers to balance appointments to gas and electricity boards and water authorities.

Survivors of fire taken out of windows

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Mrs Whitehouse criticizes BBC 'extravagance'

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Sir Keith calls for mobility of labour

It was a "cruel mockery" for Mr Benn, Secretary of State for Industry, to say that all workers had a right to stay on in the same job in the same firm, Sir Keith Joseph, Opposition spokesman on home affairs, said in a speech at Leeds on Saturday.

"This is a cruel deception," he continued, "because it would be, and Mr Benn must know this, a recipe for national bankruptcy which would end by undermining millions of jobs."

"Job security, in the same sense of the men being guaranteed continued work at the same job in the same place, even if the department and at rising wages, is the enemy of long-run full employment and rising living standards."

"The working population must choose between narrow illusory job security in one place or the real job security based on a prosperous dynamic economy."

"Without growth 'we shall not be able to afford either the great schemes for improved welfare and quality of life, or the investment and reequipment which we all agree are needed, however much we may trim essentials'."

"The greatest scope for growth came from acceptance of the need for structural improvement in the use of labour," Sir Keith said. "In general our industry is over-manned and has therefore too low earnings and too little profit to attract investment. The four are linked."

It would be better all round if fewer men using more investment could produce greater output for higher earnings while the redeployed men were transferred to more jobs on better-paid jobs. This is growth, whether the new work is in industry, commerce or services, public or private."

Sir Keith defended his speech on unemployment in a speech on "Notes that have been said in criticism of my arguments has led me to retreat from them," he said. "I argued and still argue that excessively expanding the money supply does not help to create more jobs. It does create more jobs of people, not least the unemployed themselves."

"I was at once accused of prescribing unemployment as a cure for inflation, and of blaming inflation on to full employment. In fact, I expressly argued the exact opposite: that inflation can lead to economic collapse and mass unemployment; that the cause of inflation was not full employment but the means devised to define, measure and achieve it."

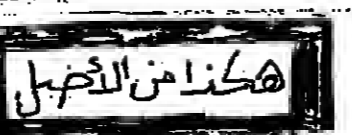
Mr Peter Walker, Conservative spokesman on defence, said yesterday that Britain was destined for ruin, unless Mr Wilson created "a new Labour government". He said: "If this Government is to survive for more than a few months it must this week tell the country the truth."

Mr Walker said in his Drogheda constituency that the Government must have a Chancellor who had not lost all authority. "Men like Reardon and Roy Jenkins must be brought to the front line of the economic battle," he added.

"Mr Wilson must create new Labour government, win policies to meet Britain's greatest peace time crisis or 'the government and our country are destined to ruin'. For the present Government, Mr Walker said, "the day of judgment is very close."

Saturday London: Temp: max 6 am, 11°C (52°F); min, 5 am, 5°C (41°F). Humid 6 pm, 73 per cent. Rain, 24th 8 pm, a trace. Sun, 24th 8 pm, 0.9h. Bar, mean sea l, 6 pm, 1,019.5 millibars, rising 1,000 millibars = 29.53in.

Yesterday London: Temp: max 6 am, 6 pm, 10°C (50°F); min, 5 am, 5°C (41°F). Humid 6 pm, 78 per cent. Rain, 24th 6 pm, a trace. Sun, 24th 8 pm, 0.9h. Bar, mean sea l, 6 pm, 1,019.5 millibars, rising 1,000 millibars = 29.53in.



HOME NEWS

Judges regard doubts on social reports as attack on impartiality

Peter Evans Home Affairs Correspondent Judges are being asked their views about an issue that involves one of the most important principles in criminal justice: that the accused is regarded as innocent until proved guilty. The issue is whether social inquiry reports by probation officers should be withheld until accused concerned is found guilty.

They say that if a judge knew a man appearing before him had previous convictions for the same sort of offence, he would be less than human if he did not suspect that the man could have done it again. Yet the man is presumed innocent until he is proved guilty, and justice must be seen to be done.

Law Society opposes wider bailiff power

By Our Legal Correspondent The Law Society has come out against a government proposal that judgments for debt in the High Court should be enforced by the same procedure as that used in the county courts.

In brief

Muslims protest at TV show

About two thousand Muslims from Yorkshire and Lancashire yesterday took part in a protest march in Bradford over the Father Brown television programme.

Football arrests

Thirty-five youths and two teenage girls were arrested at the football match between Ipswich Town and Tottenham Hotspur on Saturday, the largest number of arrests at an Ipswich game.

Quick handling

Passengers on British Airways domestic flights at Heathrow handled their own baggage yesterday because of a strike by loaders. General opinion was that baggage was reaching the terminal quicker than before the strike.

View from the shops

Part of the Roman wall in Lincoln is to be incorporated in a new shopping centre. Shoppers will be able to view archaeological treasures from a gallery.

Boy in M1 death fall

A boy aged four, died yesterday after falling out of his father's car on the M1 near Harefield, Hertfordshire. He was run over by a following car and died in hospital.

Mother dies in fire

A woman died and her son and mother were badly hurt in a fire at a council maisonette in Lee Green, south London, yesterday. The dead woman was Mrs Sylvia Hampson.

Man shot in raid

Two armed men stole £3,989 from a Swindon milk depot late on Saturday after shooting and wounding one man and locking other staff in a vault.

Blood sold to pay for trip

An English woman sold her own blood by the pint to help her on an overland trip she booked to India with a Midlands travel firm which collapsed. Miss Marianne Le-Blond, aged 23, of Riddington Lane, Wilford, Nottinghamshire, who was booked with the Nottingham-based Amano Overland Travel, said she used the blood money to pay for food and hotel fees.

She said she received £350 for a pint of blood in Istanbul and £20 in Tehran. When the tour party ran out of money in Calcutta, the British Embassy staff and her family gave her financial assistance on the homeward journey.



ing begins at Hill's the violin-makers, who are leaving London for Missenden, Buckinghamshire, after more than two centuries in the End.

ware, romantics, the crofting way of life

antics are becoming an obsession to the Crofters' Commission. Too many people are taking up crofting, and the Commission is worried about the impact on the crofting way of life.

romantics can disguise the truth that for much of the crofting world is a dark, storm-lashed land and clear days have the rare excellence of fine jewels. Even summer time may be bitter. The winds are strong, the land too bare and the soil too sour for the most tenacious apple trees.

Regional report

Ronald Faux Inverness

an encouraging drift back to the Highlands of the children from crofting families. We have had a lot of evidence that young people with a crofting background are returning home because of the opportunities of work associated with North Sea oil development.

leaving many crofting farmers with insufficient home-grown foodstuffs to winter their animals. Because of poor market prices crofters, particularly in Argyll, Caithness, Inverness, the Outer Isles and the Ross and Cromarty mainland, will be carrying up to 40 per cent extra young stock this winter.

ost children read about comics a week

Devlin Correspondent A survey of all the 9,700,000 children in Britain between the five and 15 read at least one comic a week, according to a survey carried out by the Inter-Publishing Corporation.

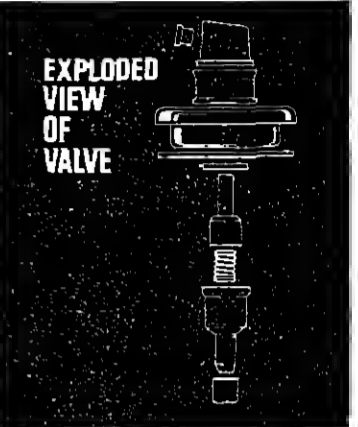
independent organization based in London, disagreed with the Schools Council's comment that the amount of verbal comment in comics had declined. He said: "Comics are very good for a child's language development. A lot of people have stereotyped ideas about comics as full of colloquialisms like bang and whoomp. It is arguable that some of these words are undesirable but they also have words and sentence formations which a child might not meet at school until he or she was much older."

Worcester supermarket plan called 'disaster'

From Our Correspondent Worcester A big new supermarket on the edge of Worcester would cause commercial disaster for city centre traders and would increase traffic, a public inquiry will be told by local planning officials tomorrow.

large isolated shopping centres should be resisted because of disastrous effects they would have on both the financial and environmental aspects of the existing centres. Sainsbury said two similar supermarkets, opened in the past three years at Breton, Flintshire, and Langney, near Eastbourne, had proved quite acceptable to the local communities.

Hostaform power pack



Aerosols play an important part in almost everyone's daily life. What would the ladies do without hairspray, housewives without air fresheners, gardeners with no insect sprays or anyone without anti-perspirants? In their turn, aerosol producers depend on smoothly operating, accurate valve mechanisms to function faultlessly time after time.

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HOME NEWS

Cambridge rapist claims fifth victim

From Our Correspondent Cambridge
A rapist being hunted by a police squad in Cambridge claimed his fifth victim in eight weeks early yesterday.

Det Supt Bernard Hotson, who heads the anti-rape squad set up by Cambridgeshire police after the first attack on October 18, said: "The man responsible for these attacks is a dangerous maniac who will strike again and again until we catch him. We are treating the attacks with all the seriousness of a murder inquiry."

Fishermen rescued

Five men were rescued from a small fishing boat which sank about eight miles south-east of the Tyne early yesterday.



Seasonal shopping at Alice Holt, a Forestry Commission plantation near Farnham, Surrey.

Tinners' parliament plans coinage

From Our Correspondent St Austell
Cornwall's Stannary Parliament, revived this year after a lapse of 222 years, has authorized the issue within the next few weeks of a Cornish currency in banknotes which will not carry a picture of the Queen.

property in St Austell planned for today. The members had agreed to seize an unspecified building in order to force the Crown to recognize the validity of the ancient tinners' parliament.
Yesterday Mr Brian Hambley, Lord Protector of the Stannaries, said that the Home Secretary in rejecting the Stannary Parliament's petition to the Queen for recognition had by implication accepted Cornwall's right to a parliament.

was elected as the Home Secretary described. "That is just what we have tried to do, but the Duchy of Cornwall told the four boroughs to have nothing to do with us," he said. "Now we are asking the four boroughs to approve the selection of six stannators from each of their areas and we have decided to postpone the seizure of Crown property."

Arbitration move by Oxford staff rejected

Oxford University is refusing to support a joint reference to the Conciliation and Arbitration Service to settle a pay dispute involving six hundred members of its clerical and administrative staff.

WEST EUROPE

M Chirac takes over party in defiance of Gaullist 'barons'

From Charles Hargrove Paris, Dec 15
M Chirac, the Prime Minister, in a surprise move yesterday, asserted his control over the Gaullist party. At a hastily summoned meeting of the central committee of 108 members, he got himself elected secretary-general by a substantial majority.

From David Cross Brussels, Dec 15
In recognition of Australia's changed relations with Europe since Britain became a member of the EEC, Mr Gough Whitlam the Prime Minister, today made Brussels the first port of call of his five-week tour of Europe capitals. In the past, Australia leaders customarily had travelled to London first.

Whitlam trade talks to begin in Brussels

Mr Whitlam will spend the next three days in Brussels, discussing Australia's trade relations with the Community and Belgium. Talks have been arranged with M Franco Xavier Ortoli, President of the European Commission, Sir Christopher Soames, the Commissioner for External Relations and Mr Tindemans, the Belgian Prime Minister.

YOUR CHRISTMAS TELEPHONE

Dial direct over Christmas

Six thousand automatic exchanges throughout the United Kingdom will be fully at your service this Christmas and will handle over thirty million inland Christmas calls.
This year a massive extension of direct international dialling will be in service. Over six million subscribers can now dial twentyfour countries.

INLAND CALLS DIALLED DIRECT
All inland dialled calls will be at the Cheap Rate from 6 pm Christmas Eve until 8 am December 27. (In Scotland only: 6 pm Christmas Eve to 8 am Boxing Day, and 6 pm New Year's Eve to 8 am January 2.)

NOTE The Standard Rate for operator controlled calls will apply from 6 pm December 24 until midnight December 26 in England, Northern Ireland and Wales; and in Scotland throughout Christmas Day and from 6 pm December 31 until midnight January 1.

INTERNATIONAL CALLS DIALLED DIRECT

For most dialled international calls Cheap Rate will be from 8 pm Christmas Eve to 6 am December 27. (Scotland: 8 pm Christmas Eve to 6 am Boxing Day, and 8 pm New Year's Eve to 6 am January 2.)

To help you make the fullest use of the extensive automatic facilities, we ask you to note the following points:

Consult your dialling instruction booklet, or seek assistance now.
Your booklet will tell you what direct dialling facilities are available from your telephone.

It lists the dialling codes of United Kingdom exchanges and the main exchanges abroad which can be dialled by you direct.

On Christmas Day (New Year's Day in Scotland) there will be fewer operators on duty, so please make any directory enquiries now.

If your telephone has International Subscriber Dialling (ISD) facilities consult the international operator now for dialling codes not shown in your dialling booklet.

Since the beginning of this month ISD subscribers have been able to dial direct to these additional countries, using the Country codes shown:

- Australia (010 61)
Hong Kong (010 852)
Israel (010 972)
New Zealand (010 64)
Singapore (010 65)
South Africa (010 27).

The Country code must be followed by the City or Area code, and then the number you are calling. If you are uncertain of the numbers check on them right away.

Several thousand operators will be on duty throughout Christmas to serve you where direct dialling is not available and to connect emergency or distress calls.

But, to enable our operators to concentrate on handling those calls where their assistance is essential, we regret we have to suspend certain facilities for inland calls on Christmas Day (New Year's Day in Scotland) and for international calls on Christmas Day only:

- 1 No assistance will be available to connect calls which can be dialled direct.
2 All special services requiring operator assistance will be withdrawn (such as transferred charge calls, personal calls, alarm calls, credit card calls).
* In the absence of transferred charge calls, for inland calls which can be dialled direct we suggest you dial the call first, give your number, and ask to be called back. This could cost the original caller only 12p, or 2p from a coinbox.
A very limited Directory Enquiry Service will be available primarily to meet emergency or distress situations.
International calls on Christmas Day you cannot dial should be booked in advance.
Bookings can be made daily between 8.30 am and 10.30 pm until December 23.
Calls you can dial direct will not be accepted for booking.

Keep this near you as a reminder



Post Office Telecommunications

Remember it pays to dial direct where you can

YOUR CHRISTMAS TELEGRAMS

On Christmas Day and Boxing Day (Christmas Day and New Year's Day in Scotland) all inland telegram deliveries by hand, telephone or telex will be suspended.
Special arrangements will be made to deliver 'life and death' messages.
Telegrams will continue to be accepted by telephone throughout the period.
Outside Scotland normal Bank Holiday deliveries will apply on January 1. In Scotland Sunday delivery arrangements will apply on Boxing Day and January 2.

Sixth-formers to undertake special research

About 2,000 sixth-formers and technical college students will volunteer next year to carry out investigations outside their normal studies.
The scheme, begun by the Associated Examining Board, has produced research work of a quality that has surprised the examiners.

Botterill takes lead in chess contest

From a Chess Correspondent Llangennech, Dyfed
After a quiet start to the play-off tournament for the British Chess Championship at Llangennech, Dyfed, a clear leader emerged in the second round yesterday when G. S. Botterill outplayed A. J. Mestel and broke through with a sudden mating attack to win in 31 moves.

Mr Foot faces driving summons

Magistrates at Brill, Buckinghamshire, are to deal today with a summons alleging careless driving against Mr Foot, Secretary of State for Employment. This follows a "damage only" accident on October 11 when Mr Foot was reversing his car from the forecourt of a public house at Kingswood.

Yacht squadron cannon stolen

An ancient Chinese cannon which has adorned the battlements of the famous Royal Yacht Squadron headquarters, Cowes Castle, Isle of Wight, for 63 years, vanished before dawn yesterday.

Gen Haig takes over as Nato chief in Europe

Casteau, Belgium, Dec 15.—General Alexander Haig, the former White House chief of staff, who took over today as Supreme Allied Commander in Europe, asked to be judged by his performance and said he saw no reason why his connection with Watergate should interfere.

Amnesty chief differs with M Sartre on 'torture'

From Dan van der Vat Bonn, Dec 15
The Rev Paul Oestreicher, chairman of the British section of Amnesty International, confirmed today that he recently visited three West German prisons in which alleged members of the "Baader-Meinhof" group of urban guerrillas are detained.

Italian news at entertainment hit by strikes

From Our Own Correspondent Rome, Dec 15
Strikes in the journalistic entertainment worlds of theatres and cinemas today prevented the issue of papers and news bulletins the second day.

Triumph for Mme Veil on French Abortion Bill

From Our Own Correspondent Paris, Dec 15
Mme Simone Veil, the Minister of Health, again earned her reputation as "the only man in the Government" by obtaining a surprisingly large majority for her Abortion Bill in the Senate early on Sunday morning.

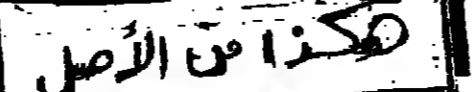
Gen Haig takes over as Nato chief in Europe

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\$1.2m church for African liberation group

From Our Correspondent Geneva, Dec 15
The World Council Churches says that its church aid commission given African liberation movements in Angola, Mozambique and Guinea-Bissau (about \$521,000) in agriculture and education over the past three years.

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WE ARE REQUESTED BY DIRECT IMPORTERS/RE-EXPORTERS FROM P.L.A. BONDED WAREHOUSE LONDON, IRANIAN CARPET BROKERAGE LIMITED SPECIALIST EXPORTERS OF FINE INVESTMENT PIECES AND EXCEPTIONALLY FASHIONED ORIENTAL RUGS WHOSE TRADITIONAL LUXURY MARKETS SINCE 1948 HAVE BEEN IN PRESENT DAY ZAMBIA, MALAWI, UGANDA, KENYA AND SOUTH AFRICA, NOW CLOSED OR HEAVILY RESTRICTED BY IMPORT CONTROLS. WE OFFER SPECIFICALLY FLOOR EXHIBITION AND SALE PERSIAN AND ORIENTAL RUGS INCLUDING RARE EXCEPTIONAL AND INVESTMENT PIECES MONDAY DECEMBER 16th to SATURDAY DECEMBER 21st 10 am to 8 pm at THE PICCADILLY HOTEL, PICCADILLY, W1



Egypt's call for 50-year ban on Israel immigration will be diplomatic exercise' for peace

By Paul Martin
Jerusalem, Dec 15

Egypt's stringency new conditions for peace, including a 50-year ban on immigration to Israel, are an answer to Israel's "transgression" on the Palestine issue, according to well-placed Egyptian sources.

But they point out that the conditions are more an "exercise in diplomacy" than in "exercise in demands to be presented at negotiating table."

The Egyptians believe that progress on the Palestinian issue will be necessary to take search for peace in the Middle East, a stage further than the "step" approach of Dr. Singer, the American Secretary of State, but fear that the present impasse in the peace negotiations could be lost.

His latest Egyptian policy enunciated in the growing enmity among the Arab states that Israel has remained hostile over the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) for the Israelis have stood in their refusal either to recognize the PLO or to accept the voice of the Palestinians in peace talks.

The recent summit conference in Rabat the Arab states paved the way for PLO participation in future peace negotiations by recognizing it as a representative of the Arab people. The aim was to project the PLO into the peace negotiations and lead over to it the

task of solving the Palestine issue.

Clearly, the Egyptian conditions are the strongest to be put forward since the post-1967 diplomatic battle began. They were outlined in a speech by Mr. Ismael Fahmy, the Egyptian Foreign Minister, in Cairo last Friday.

He demanded pledges by Israel to stop immigration for the next 50 years, to compensate the Palestinians for "material and moral damage" during the past 20 years, and to compensate the Arab states for damage caused during Israel's occupation.

"Every day we get a statement out of Israel maximizing her demands," a Foreign Ministry official said in Cairo.

There are statements against returning Egyptian prisoners captured in 1967 and against returning Arab territory captured in the 1967 war. Mr. Fahmy's statement was meant as a reply to this intensification.

The question of Jewish emigration to Israel is an emotive one among the Arab states, particularly as it principally involves the two superpowers. In this context, Mr. Fahmy's statement may be regarded as a reminder to the United States and the Soviet Union of their recent agreement on Soviet Jewish emigration which forms part of the detente arrangements.

According to well-placed Egyptian sources, President Sadat and his advisers recognize that it would be impossible

Miami police check Stonehouse blood group

By Our Diplomatic Staff

Police in Miami are checking the blood group of Mr. John Stonehouse, the missing British MP, against blood samples found on a concrete "coffin" which seems to have been used in a Mafia-style killing.

It is unlikely that the blood checks could provide any positive evidence of a link between the middle of Mr. Stonehouse's disappearance and the discovery of the concrete cast—which is known to have contained a body. But if the blood groups were found to differ it could at least rule out any connexion.

The Foreign Office is being kept informed of developments in the hunt for the missing MP through their consul in Miami, Mr. D. W. M. Pierotti. He is said to be in daily contact with the police.

The concrete slab was taken to the beach not far from the spot where Mr. Stonehouse disappeared after apparently entering the water for swim. But the body inside it was removed and the cast broken up before police could inspect it.

Part of the concrete was left behind on the beach and the rest was removed to a warehouse at Fort Lauderdale.



President Ford enjoying a swim in Martinique yesterday, guarded by a French gendarme.

Mr Smith speaks of multiracial rule

Continued from page 1

to be today squashed concisely speculation of a rift and a power struggle between himself and the Rev. Ndlovu. Mr. Smith, the leader of Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU). The speculation arose from the fact that Mr. Smith was one of the Zanu representatives at the initial discussions in Lusaka.

The viewpoint of the Zanu leadership, Mr. Mugabe said, had been that they would not attend any negotiations as prisoners. Then a second written invitation arrived from President Kaunda, President Nyerere, President Seretse Khama and Mr. Samora Machel, the Mozambique leader. "We did not want to show rudeness," Mr. Mugabe said. "Certainly the whole idea was repugnant to us. We had been told there had been talks with Vorster and that sort of thing and just imagine our feelings then. So our executive decided to send two lesser people, myself and Morton Malinga, to hear what it was all about."

They reported back to the Zanu executive in jail. "We recommended what was wanted was for us to try this exercise and if it failed, then to resort to military action," Mr. Mugabe said.

As a result Mr. Smith attended the second round of negotiations in Lusaka and agreed to unite with Zanu and try to negotiate a settlement. The negotiation exercise had been forced on Zanu, he said, but they would do their best to make it successful. He was confident that the alliance established with the other nationalist groups would prevail.

we have got to accept is that Rhodesia is going to be governed by all the people, white as well as blacks, and I believe that this is what is going to come. It would be a tragedy if we go to a stage where one day there was white rule and the next day there was black rule.

"I believe we have got to bring us African in or take him along with us." This was nothing revolutionary. He had always said that, if he found Africans of ability and merit, he would be prepared to give them a chance. But, because of the attitude of extremism, so many had been unwilling to cooperate.

Asked if he was thinking in terms of parity in three years and majority rule in five, Mr. Smith said such thoughts had never entered his head and he did not think they ever would.

He discounted the prospect of Mr. Callaghan, the British Foreign Secretary, visiting Rhodesia on his forthcoming African tour. He described as sensible the South African decision to withdraw its paramilitary police units in the event of the ceasefire being effective. Relations between Rhodesia and South Africa were warm, he said, and there was no question of South Africa having "pulled the rug out" from under Rhodesia.

Mr. Mugabe, who was formerly secretary-general of the Zimbabwe African People's Union (ZAPU) and is regarded as one of the most influential of the former detainees, talking

Israel war hero gives up parliamentary seat

Moshe Brilliant
Jerusalem, Dec 15

Major-General Ariel Sharon, led the successful Israeli offensive across the Canal in the October 1973, resigned his seat in Parliament today to enable him to take a military appointment in the reserves. The Army announced he was being given a senior emergency appointment.

at a meeting of his party, the Likud, General Sharon said he feared Israel faced the possibility of a difficult war that might be crucial for the survival of the Jewish nation. "Anyone who is able to contribute to the security effort must do so."

He said he had wanted to return to the regular army but was not accepted.

He said today he would be active politically as long as he was not called up

Attack trial postponed again

Jerusalem, Dec 15.—The trial of 92 charged with the attack on the Israeli military technical school last April, put off until January 18.

Full text of Nato foreign ministers' communiqué

Brussels, Dec 15.—Following is the text of the final communiqué issued by the foreign ministers of the twelve NATO member states at the end of their two-day meeting in Brussels on Friday.

The North Atlantic Council met in its 15th session in Brussels on 13th and 14th December, 1974, at the close of the year which the twenty-fifth anniversary of the alliance, ministers noted satisfaction that member states remain firmly committed to the alliance and that this had been expressed in the declaration.

Ministers reviewed developments in East-West relations. They noted progress, albeit uneven, in detente over the past six years. They stated their readiness to make their efforts to make progress in their negotiations and to work with the Soviet Union and Warsaw Pact countries aimed at improvement in East-West relations.

Ministers noted the increase in military strength of the Warsaw Pact countries, and bearing in mind the importance of the policy of detente, stressed their determination to maintain their own defensive strength.

Ministers had a broad discussion of the implications of the current situation for the maintenance of the alliance and noted the progress made at both the national and international levels to deal with the difficulties confronting the economies of the allied states.

Ministers affirmed their determination to seek appropriate solutions in the spirit of cooperation and confidence which characterizes their relations. Ministers expressed their readiness to continue to consult on questions of economic cooperation in areas within the competence of the member states.

Ministers noted that at the Copenhagen security and cooperation conference there had been progress to show that substantial important questions could be resolved.

Ministers expressed their undiminished determination to work patiently and actively towards balanced and mutually beneficial results under all circumstances, and to bring about a new conclusion to the conference as a whole as soon as may be.

Ministers reviewed the state of the arms control negotiations in Vienna on mutual reduction of nuclear forces. They noted that the negotiations have as their objective to contribute to a stable relationship and to the signing of peace treaties in Europe, and their successful advance detente.

Ministers were resolved to pursue negotiations with a view to undiminished security forces, at a lower level of central Europe. They reaffirmed their commitment to the concept of approximate parity of force for the ground forces of NATO and the Warsaw Pact in the area of reduction of nuclear forces. They considered that a first step in this direction would be to reach an agreement covering the States and Soviet forces would be an important practical first step in this direction.

Ministers noted that the negotiations had not produced results to the satisfaction of the allied states. They reaffirmed their intention to continue to work towards a new conclusion to the conference as a whole as soon as may be.

Ministers noted the progress of the work of the Committee on the Challenges of Modern Society, especially on solar and geothermal energy resources, improved water pollution, improved sewage disposal, urban transport and health care.

Ministers also noted the start of projects on the disposal of hazardous wastes and action to follow up completed CCMS studies on the prevention of ocean oil spills, road safety improvement, cleaner air and purer river water, thus enhancing the quality of life for their citizens.

Ministers directed the Council in permanent session to consider and decide on the date and place of the spring session of the ministerial conference of the North Atlantic Council.—Reuter

Sams drive off Israeli aircraft

Beirut, Dec 15.—Four Israeli aircraft were driven off by surface-to-air missiles and anti-aircraft fire during a raid into Lebanon today. The aircraft flew westward towards Tyre, Sidon and Beirut.—Reuter.



In some parts of the world, it's still feeding five thousand.

We haven't really come very far in the last two thousand years. In most parts of the world, people are still poor. Still underfed. Still waiting for a miracle to happen.

Unfortunately, the last few years haven't been too good for miracles. So, even at Christmas, some of us go hungry while the rest of us eat. Some of us go thirsty, while the rest of us drink.

At times, the world doesn't seem a very fair place, does it? If you agree, perhaps you'll do something to help restore the balance this Christmas.

That doesn't just mean giving the hungry food. It means giving them the means to grow it. A few tractors here. Some seed grain there. Somewhere else, maybe an agricultural school.

None of this would be possible, though, without money.

And that's one of the few things Heaven doesn't yet provide.

Christian Aid.
Christian Aid, PO Box 1, London SW1.
Giro Number 5563151.

Leading article, page 13

OVERSEAS

Greece to close down foreign bases not needed for its defence

From Mario Modiano Athens, Dec 15

Mr Constantine Karamanlis, the Greek Prime Minister, has informed Parliament that all foreign military bases which do not serve the defence interests of Greece will have to be withdrawn. He made the declaration yesterday while winding up a four-day debate on his Government's policy, which resulted in a 217 to 78 vote of confidence. The Government announced earlier this week that all the treaties concerning Nato and American military installations in Greece would be reviewed. Mr George Mavros, the main opposition leader, said this was not enough: "It is inadmissible that there should be areas in Greece fenced off with barbed wire, where even the Defence Minister has no access. These foreign bases should come under Greek national control." Mr Karamanlis replied, amid applause, "I inform Parliament that these bases are under Greek national control. He did not elaborate. "Existing treaties," he added, "granted the foreigners certain privileges. The proposed review of treaties and agreements is aimed at eliminating such privileges. Furthermore, it aims at the withdrawal of all those bases which are not relevant to the defence interests of Greece." Each facility is given a rating and only those which will rate high in Greek defence priorities will be kept. For instance, it is known that the Greek Defence Ministry regards the Greek section of Nato's early warning system as vital for the national defence.

Gen Ghizikis resigns presidency in Athens

From Our Correspondent Athens, Dec 15

General Phaidon Ghizikis, who was appointed President of Greece by the junta which seized power on Nov 25, 1973, has placed his resignation at the disposal of Mr Karamanlis, the Prime Minister, it was officially announced tonight. The general played a leading role in the restoration of democracy yesterday when he stayed on at the request of Mr Karamanlis. In a letter to the Prime Minister dated Dec 11, he said that following the general elections and the plebiscite the reasons for him continuing as President had been eliminated. General Ghizikis had twice before expressed his wish to resign once during the night of July 22 when he visited Mr Karamanlis to return from exile and take over power, the other on the day that he was forced to sign a decree compulsorily retiring the generals who had brought him to power. The present resignation is believed to have been speeded up by the general's wish to leave public office as Parliament begins its regular work tomorrow. There are still many questions about General Ghizikis's role in the Cyprus coup last July, and questions in Parliament might have caused a good deal of embarrassment. General Ghizikis will continue in office for a few days. A Government spokesman said tonight that the Government's intention for interim President would be submitted to the chamber about the middle of next week. The name of Prof Xenophon Zolotas, the Governor of the Bank of Greece, has been mentioned repeatedly.



A policeman, holding a confiscated pistol, sits on top of a demonstrator during a Boston school busing riot on Saturday.

Six held in riot over school busing

Boston, Dec 15.—Six people were arrested and several injured yesterday when about 3,000 marchers supporting school busing attempted to breach a police line and enter a restricted shopping area. The demonstrators, both black and white, left the route approved by police and hurled themselves at the cordon. After a clash, in which bottles and stones were thrown and one man brandished a revolver, the marchers withdrew and rejoined several thousand other demonstrators who had stayed on the approved route.

Meanwhile, South Boston High School and several other schools in the area will remain closed tomorrow because of racial tensions. More than 1,000 whites clashed with police at the high school on Wednesday after a white pupil was stabbed.—Reuter.

Advertisement for TIO PEPE THE other sherry. The text is partially obscured by the image of the sherry bottle.

Large advertisement for TIO PEPE THE other sherry. It features a detailed image of a bottle and several smaller bottles of different varieties like Caballero, Jerez, and La Concha. The text includes the brand name and 'THE other sherry'.

'Political motive' in move to deport John Lennon

From William P. Jobs Washington, Dec 15

John Lennon's complex legal struggle against deportation is now nearing its third year, and there are growing indications that the Immigration and Naturalization Service responded to political pressure in deciding to press its case against the former Beatle. Although the Immigration Service says Mr Lennon is unable to remain in the United States because of a minor drug offence, records show that some 118 other offenders with more serious narcotics backgrounds have been permitted to live in this country. Sources close to the case suggest that the Immigration Service's unusual interest in Mr Lennon developed when officials of the Nixon Administration were informed that Mr Lennon planned to appear at a leftist rally at the 1972 Republican national convention. Mr Lennon today insists that he had no intention of going to the Republican convention. He has been arrested several times by Strom Thurmond (Republican, South Carolina), a member of the Senate internal security committee, who was a leading Nixon ally at the time, passed intelligence data on Mr Lennon to Mr John Mitchell, then the Attorney-General. This information, sources say, was channelled through the Justice Department and Immigration Service chain of command to Mr Sol Marks, director of the Service's New York district office at the time, which orders to revoke immediately Mr Lennon's visitor's visa. Mr Leon Wildes, a prominent New York lawyer specializing in immigration affairs who represents Mr Lennon, claims that interference by high Administration officials in what was essentially an Immigration Service matter was an illegal incursion into the right of immigration district directors to exercise discretion in such cases. Mr Wildes has alleged in a suit, separate from his deportation defence of Mr Lennon, that evidence obtained by the Government was the product of illegal surveillance activities.—Washington Star-News.

Apartheid 'must give way in face of changes'

From Our Correspondent Johannesburg, Dec 15

The South African Government is "clobbering" the press to divert the attention of its supporters from the consequences of its making, Mr Laurence Gardner, former editor of the Rand Daily Mail, said here at the weekend. "By 1980, I suggest, South Africa will be a very different place from the country we have known since 1910," he said at Witwatersrand University after receiving an honorary doctorate of law. "What has begun to happen here will, to an extent hard to visualize now, transform the country, not just in the lifetime of you young people leaving university this year, but in the course of the next three to five years. "The commitment to ending discrimination, solemnly made by Mr Pik Botha (South Africa's United Nations representative), is surely irreversible and, where apartheid fails to adjust to this commitment, it is argued that it will have to give way." Perhaps the most ironical aspect of the election for the 269 seats is that the present Government is not up for re-election and has confined itself merely to propagating information about the democratic process and the need for everyone to vote. In previous elections more than half the electorate have failed to vote. As power in Thailand is centred round Bangkok, the country people have always been more cynical of the power of the ballot. One villager recently recounted a proverbial story about Thai politics: "Thai politicians are like bald birds," he said. "Each vote represents a feather and when they get them all, they fly away and we never see them again." Public enthusiasm both for the interim Government and democracy in general appears to have waned since last year's student-inspired uprising which overthrew the military government that had dominated Thailand for a decade. Since then, Mr Sanya Dbermasakdi, the Prime Minister, has acted as a caretaker leader while the country prepared for general elections.

Thai electors have choice of 42 political parties

From Our Correspondent Bangkok, Dec 15

Nearly 2,200 candidates have registered in what promises to be one of Thailand's most confusing elections. Already, 42 political parties have registered, a world record, for the general election next month. The campaigning is doubly confusing because of the plethora of parties containing the words "social, agricultural and justice" as part of their nomenclature, to catch the new mood of the people. As in previous Thai elections, the campaigns are centred on personalities rather than policies. In the less sophisticated rural electorates observers have noted that often candidates deliberately avoid even mentioning which party they belong to, preferring to win votes by attacking the integrity and personality of their opponents. Some of the more colourful stories of the campaign include those of candidates who hand out postcards of naked girls and others who offer a new road into the village should they be returned. Perhaps the most ironical aspect of the election for the 269 seats is that the present Government is not up for re-election and has confined itself merely to propagating information about the democratic process and the need for everyone to vote. In previous elections more than half the electorate have failed to vote. As power in Thailand is centred round Bangkok, the country people have always been more cynical of the power of the ballot. One villager recently recounted a proverbial story about Thai politics: "Thai politicians are like bald birds," he said. "Each vote represents a feather and when they get them all, they fly away and we never see them again." Public enthusiasm both for the interim Government and democracy in general appears to have waned since last year's student-inspired uprising which overthrew the military government that had dominated Thailand for a decade. Since then, Mr Sanya Dbermasakdi, the Prime Minister, has acted as a caretaker leader while the country prepared for general elections.

Chinese restive over US link with Taiwan

From David Bonavia Peking, Dec 15

The United States could solve the Taiwan issue by an arrangement similar to that which Japan has with China, senior officials in Peking are reported to have told Senator Mike Mansfield during his visit last week. Mr Mansfield was understood to have found the Chinese somewhat impatient over this issue, which Dr Henry Kissinger, the American Secretary of State, avoided during his recent talks here. Japan maintains an embassy in Peking and an "exchange office" in Taipei to handle trade and related matters. The United States has an embassy in Taipei and a liaison office in Peking. Although the arrangement works well for practical matters the Chinese are believed to be increasingly restive at Washington's continued diplomatic recognition of the Taiwan regime.

28 rioters jailed

Rangoon, Dec 15.—Special military courts sentenced 28 more people to three years jail for destroying public property in riots last week. On Friday 35 people received prison sentences.

Ford grants reduced

New York, Dec 15.—The Ford Foundation is to reduce its grants over the next four years by more than half because of the declining value of its investments and a decision to stop spending capital.

Israel snubs Unesco

Jerusalem, Dec 15.—Mr Alon, Israel's Foreign Minister, said his country had suspended its financial contribution to Unesco because of the organization's anti-Israelist stance.

Angola party split

Luanda, Dec 15.—The Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola has announced the expulsion of Mr Daniel Chipinda, who leads a faction opposed to Dr Agostinho Neto, the chairman.

Vietnam town falls

Saigon, Dec 15.—Communist troops seriously threatened a government militia base about 70 miles north-east of Saigon today after overrunning the district town of Duc Phoo.

ENTERTAINMENTS

When telephoning use prefix 01 only outside London Metropolitan Area

Large entertainment listings section containing various theatre, opera, and concert listings. It includes titles like 'The Gingerbread Lady', 'The Good Companions', 'The Norman Conquests', and 'The Little Hut'. It also lists venues such as Covent Garden, Royal Albert Hall, and various theatres.

MONDAY BOOK

Martin trio together again

John Martin's last and perhaps greatest paintings, the three large scenes from the Book of Revelation, were advertised as their first London exhibition in 1855 as "the most sublime and extraordinary pictures in the world".

What a lovely siege!

Thank God We Kept the Flag Flying

The Siege and Relief of Ladysmith 1899-1900

By Kenneth Griffith

(Hutchinson, £5.95)

"If I was the general," said the Boer staff officer with the Field Marshal's baton in his knapsack. "I should retreat. But then I am not the general."

Revelation was right. White's decision not to retreat was to prove the most disastrous of all the strategic errors in the Boer War, of which there were no shortage.

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'Le lion Anglais et le taureau Boer'—from a French satirical magazine.

Thomas Pakenham Berlioz's analogy to Claude

London Orpheus Choir Queen Elizabeth Hall

Stephen Walsh

Berlioz's L'Enfance du Christ is treated nowadays by amateur choral societies as something of a Christmas standby. But it is not a work to be undertaken lightly, as Saturday's modest performance under James Gaddard showed.

At its best L'Enfance has the touching charm of a painted Nativity—is, indeed, perhaps a direct analogy in music to Claude's Flight into Egypt.

Faust

Covent Garden

John Higgins

A new conductor for Covent Garden's Faust has brought a change which has been most warmly received.

The general cast is now particularly fine. Mackerras takes it very slowly, giving maximum support to his tenor and soprano.

The Nutcracker

Covent Garden

John Percival

Is it true, I wonder, that the Royal Ballet discourages the Nutcracker from playing Christmas, to avoid direct competition with Festival Ballet?

Whenever the explanation, Saturday afternoon's performance was the last for the time being of what is, according to the latest published figures, the company's last ballet.

Funny Lady for Royal Film Performance

The Queen will see a Hollywood musical at the Royal Film Performance on March 17, 1975.

Roger Millington

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ART EXHIBITIONS

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LEGER GALLERY

An exhibition of important 19th and 20th Century Paintings and Drawings, including works by Turner, Constable, Manet, Degas, Delacroix, Pissarro, Magritte, and others.

MAAS GALLERY

Christmas exhibition featuring a wide range of gifts, including paintings, prints, and decorative objects.

MAYOR GALLERY

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MARLBOROUGH GALLERY

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Scottish Opera's fine Marschallin

Rosenkavalier/Bohème King's, Edinburgh

William Mann

Scottish Opera originally produced Richard Strauss's Der Rosenkavalier in English (three years ago), with the memorable partnership of Helga Dernesch and Janet Baker for the good reason that, more perhaps than any other standard repertory masterpiece, it will not properly be appreciated unless every word is intelligible.

No English translation that I have heard or read has been able to do full justice to the subtleties of the libretto (the various forms of address, for instance, and the dialects); next month Londoners will see and hear how the ENO cope with the problems when their production in English opens at the Coliseum Scottish Opera, for their current revival, have reverted to the original German text—though there was only one non-British singer in the cast which I saw in Edinburgh last week, and she, Trudellene Schmidt, was a superb replacement for the British Octavian, Anne Howells. Not much attempt was made at the dialect, even by Miss Schmidt (Michael Langdon as Octavian makes more of it); some odd German words were heard from Catherine Wilson as the Marschallin, but these could easily be forgiven, so lovely was

her performance as a whole. Miss Wilson looks the right age (32) for the part, and her voice has the warmth and fineness of shading for the glorious music (she has honed away the shrillness that came upon her when she turned into a soprano a few years ago). There was a wealth of tenderness in "Du bist mein Bub", a real understanding of the character in the closing scene of the first act, tactfully yet eloquently done, with clear and meaningful enunciation, and in the exchanges with Octavian and Sophie which culminate in the marvellous trio. Here her voice blended superbly with those of Miss Schmidt and the lovely Sophie, Glenny Fowles, who had recently given us an enchanting account of the first act, "Mit Herrn Augusten von Trienan". Anthony Besch's production, rehearsed this time by David Pountney, remains elegant and poignant, the many characters being skilfully and, particularly, Malcom Donnelly's Commissionaire of Police, as well as the already familiar Duenna of Judith Pearce, Thomas Hensley's Fainal, and, of course, Mr Langdon's mastery Ochs, even Lester in this small theatre (his "Brav" to the Italian tenor interpolated after "Ah! Morgen-guth" is surely a mistake). The Marschallin's bedroom was too brightly lit when the curtain rose; and the Leopold did not adequately resemble his father. But, taken as a whole, the family likeness). For the rest,

this is a happy revival to see as well as hear. In the past Alexander Gibson conducts a tense, vivid, and spontaneously played reading—some tempi perhaps too fast for comfort, though the third-act prelude is almost cautious by contrast—and is careful not to overpower his singers. Sir Charles Groves is in charge of the revival of Puccini's La Bohème which also goes at a smart pace, advantageous not only for the scenes of bohemian revelry but for much of the lyrical music, too, this being prevented from cloying and from overtaxing the cast. For the Mimì is somewhat short-breathed though charmingly so, especially when she sings "Me e tu, me e tu". The Rodolfo, Reginald Byers, from Australia, for all his healthy voice is spare of legato line and inclined to the expressive softness that excites tempi almost not have helped either of them. As it was, the third act went nicely and the Death Scene found them sensitive and moving. It was not an unforgettable cast. Patricia Bay's tough, Women's Lib-style Musetta was especially interesting, as was Sanderson's breezy Schenauer. Peter Ebert's production is inventive, rather too contrived in the third act, delightful at Café Momo, even if the puns are a little overdone, and the ending is a credit to the director.

The Boom Boom Room

Ansacher, New York

Clive Barnes

Joseph Papp as a producer has many qualities but the two most unusual are those of loyalty and wit. When he commits himself to a playwright it appears to be a total commitment. It is much the same with actors. Papp has a sense of company, a sense of a continuing institution. This is the vital, living aspect of the New York Shakespeare Festival, wherever the festival turns up at the Public Theatre in Lafayette Street, in Central Park or at Lincoln Centre.

When Papp moved part of his operations to Lincoln Centre last year, he started his Vivian Beaumont theatre with a work destined to be one of the most controversial plays of the season, David Rabe's Boom Boom Room. It was both praised and maligned, but at the end of the season it was winning a fraction of a vote of winning the New York drama critics' best-play award over another of Papp's productions, Miguel Pinero's Short Eyes.

Yet the play was not really right at the Vivian Beaumont. As Papp and the author admitted at the time, it needed more work on it. Papp had little enough time to prepare his first season, and he obviously wanted to start off with Rabe, the playwright perhaps most closely associated with his management. The work was not ready. Courageously Papp sent it back to the drawing board. During the past summer it had a production out of town, and now it has been brought back to New York. In yet a third production, at the Ansacher Theatre. It has been considerably rewritten, something like 25 per cent of the play is new, and is far better staged. But the result is not that much different.

Rabe's play could be subtitled "The Anatomy of a Go-Go Girl". The heroine is Chrissy, a largely innocent-seeming girl with a naturally sweet nature. She is indeed a victim of that same sweet nature. When we first see her she is a go-go girl in Philadelphia, and our last sight of her is as a stripper in New York. What the playwright has done, especially in this new and better-focused version of the script, is to offer the portrait of a woman. The central fault of the play is that the woman herself, one of Nature's losers, is just not very interesting. She is a cliché expert testifying on life. Chrissy herself never develops as a character. She wants love and she receives, in various forms, violence. The virtue of the play is undoubtedly the way in which Rabe gets into a female mind. Nearly all Chrissy's trouble derive from her status as a woman. She is simply an inarticulate sex object less almost unnoticed by the people who use her. The play has gained from its new downtown staging, Robert Hedley's direction and David Mitchell's setting concentrate on a realism the Lincoln Centre production consciously eschewed. There is also Ellen Green as Chrissy. Miss Green is brilliant. From the too shiny gloss on her pointing lips, the too troubled glaze on her puzzled mind, even to the clumsy grace of her non-dancer body, she is touchingly vulnerable and wholly credible.—New York Times News Service.

New cast for Ayckbourn comedy

Absurd Person Singular, Alan Ayckbourn's comedy, is to have a third sextet of players at the Vaudeville Theatre from January 20. The three women will be played by Millicent Martin, Amanda Barrie and Stephanie Turner, and the three men by Paul Haddington, returning with the cast, John Clive and David Baron.

Jack Lemmon to star in The Entertainer

Jack Lemmon will star in John Osborne's The Entertainer for the Robert Stigwood Group, in a two-hour film version to be shown on NBC television. The play will be given an American setting and filmed on location in May, 1975. Bery Vertue will serve as producer. Marvin Hamlish is writing five or six original songs for the new film. John Avildsen will direct.

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University of Cape Town

FOR THE CHAMBER OF MINES... University of Cape Town, Cape Town

University of London

UNIVERSITY ENTRANCE AND SCHOOL EXAMINATIONS... University of London, London

LEEDS GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL

The Governors of Leeds Girls' High School... Bursar and Clerk. To the Governors to take effect from 1st September 1975.

NORWICH SCHOOL

The Governors invite applications for the post of HEADMASTER... Norwich School, Norwich

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN SENIOR LECTURESHIP IN LAW... University of Cape Town, Cape Town

University of New England

Armidale, New South Wales VISITING LECTURER/SENIOR LECTURER IN GEOGRAPHY... University of New England, Armidale

University of Sydney

CHAIR OF VETERINARY SURGERY... University of Sydney, Sydney

University of Queensland

READER/SENIOR LECTURER IN MARKETING... University of Queensland, St. Lucia

Rhodes University

GRAHAMSTOWN SOUTH AFRICA LECTURER IN PHARMACEUTICS... Rhodes University, Grahamstown

University of Tasmania

LECTURESHIP/SENIOR LECTURESHIP IN EDUCATION... University of Tasmania, Launceston

Secretarial and General Appointments also on page 23

GENERAL

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SECRETARIES IN CORPORATE FINANCE... Secretarial, London based...

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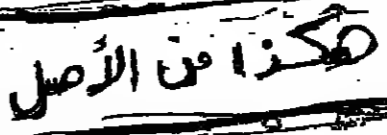
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Executive Secretaries

CONVEYANCING CLERK £3,000

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Tennis



His: unbelievable play.

Vilas rallies to take 6-0 in final

Delbourne, Dec 15.—Gjellermo... Vilas' seventh tournament... Vilas forced a de-breaker... Vilas seemed to falter at crucial point...

Rugby Union

Top men must cut out the needless errors that cost England the title

By Peter West... unqualified successes of the afternoon... North, underestimating the... the Midlands pack and ran in eight more tries down the goal...

How to use the knack of taking chances

By Gordon Allen... Roslyn Park were confident of beating Richmond... strides further on, and evaded the clutches of four Park players...

Game with few moments to remember

By Michael Hardy... London Welsh and a proforma to their opponents... London Irish, with admirable candour, replied: 'Nothing spectacular'.

Cricket

Determination needed to survive

From John Woodcock... In spite of another wonderfully gallant effort by Colin Cowdrey... Lloyd in agony after being hit by Thomson.



Lloyd in agony after being hit by Thomson.

good. Later in this same over... fresh attack aimed with a new ball... The first five balls this morning, bowled by Arnold, were all hit by Edmonds for two mostly off the toes.

Test scorecard

Table with columns for England First Innings, Australia First Innings, and various player statistics like runs, wickets, and overs.

India drop three players after an innings defeat

New Delhi, Dec 15.—Three of the players in India's team beaten by an innings and 17 runs by the West Indies... Sunil Gavaskar and Mansur Ali Khan Pataudi, unable to play here today...

ICC constitution queried

Lahore, Dec 15.—Delegates to the inaugural Asian cricket conference decided here to seek two amendments to the International Cricket Council's constitution...

East Africa will compete

Nairobi, Dec 15.—An East African team will definitely take part in the Prudential world cup cricket tournament to be held in England next summer...

Mixed XI to tour S Africa

Cape Town, Dec 15.—Brian Close will lead a mixed-racial international cricket team on a South African tour in February...

Weekend results

Table listing various sports events and results from the weekend, including tennis, squash, and other sports.

Squash rackets

By Rex Bellamy... Squash Rackets Correspondent... Philip Ayton, of Sussex, reached the last eight of the British amateur squash tournament...

Ayton shows who is the leading amateur

his day when the shaft of his racket broke in two in the second rally of the match... Ayton hit a lot of winners and a notable feature of his game was his fast backhand drop shot...

Boxing

By Neil Allen, Boxing Correspondent... Ken Buchanan, Britain's outstanding lightweight champion, expressed his annoyance here this afternoon that his name was not on the official program...

When Buchanan threw away the kid gloves

first over eight rounds and then over ten... Buchanan nodded understandingly when I told him that Tavaraz recently described him as a 'gentleman' in the ring...

Hockey

By Sydney Friskin... The England hockey team, preparing for the World Cup in Kuala Lumpur from March 1 to 15, won all four matches in the divisional tournament which ended at Derby yesterday...

Svehlik's involvement a stimulant for England

against England, which they lost 4-1, and the one against West... The England hockey team, preparing for the World Cup in Kuala Lumpur from March 1 to 15, won all four matches in the divisional tournament...

Lacrosse

London, Dec 15.—Another row over the wearing of 'fishskin' suits by ski racers... The green-clad Austrian hurdler... The green-clad Austrian hurdler (nearly two miles) course at speeds of up to 130 kilometres (80 miles) an hour...

Swimmers disqualified for wearing 'fishskin' suits

team refused even to start in a women's downhill World Cup race at Cortina d'Ampezzo because of the 'fishskin' suits... The green-clad Austrian hurdler (nearly two miles) course at speeds of up to 130 kilometres (80 miles) an hour...

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SPORT

Football

Leeds can see that the possibility of keeping title is no illusion

By Norman Fox
None of the leading six clubs in this First Division should look back on the weekend with much pride...

will have risen like a bubble to the surface—spreading further doubts on the standards being set by those left behind...

and that there were too many "personal vendettas" between the clubs of the First Division...

Much time-wasting on the District Line

By Norman Fox
The decision to spoil Saturday's match at West Ham was taken after 17 minutes...

ing the stage. Marsh played the role of a couple of times in a blank expression which entreated him to do something clever before taking the applause...

work was a happy ending to a week of frustration for the City goalkeeper who had been dropped but returned when Carrigan was injured in training...

Stoke simmer without coming to the boil

By Tom German
Winning converts to the manager Jimmy Armfield's view that anyone, including Leeds United, can sneak into the championship race...

seconds left and the reward was taken. Indeed, Stoke deserved no more. Leeds are still a useful side...

ing it in his stride again with an impish defiance which even Giles would have envied...

Wycombe on a slippery slope to the sea

By Clive White
It was this sort of swift, incisive counter-attack which has won the opposition cold. Yet Wycombe Wanderers survived this double assault...

out of the bag and when the names of Middlebrough immediately followed you could almost hear the calculations going on in the Wycombe brain...

that their professional slickness was no match for the "amateur's" enthusiasm in midfield. The first half was not a particularly good one...

Alias Lord High Everything Else

By Norman de Mesquita
Predictably, the Leatherhead manager, William Miller, described Saturday when his team beat Colchester United 1-0...

Today's fixtures
FA Cup
Second round replays
Mansfield Town v Wigan Athletic (7.30)

The all-important goal on Saturday came from a cut left by Webb as he nudged on by Reid and the ball fell nicely for Doyle to score from the edge of the area...

FA Cup chaos will be Lancashire's lot

Lancashire will be the centre of almost certain FA Cup chaos on January 4 when, as a result of the early knock-out matches...

Third round draw

Arsenal v York City
Bristol Rovers v Bristol Rovers
Barnley v Wigan Athletic

Leading goal scorers

Table listing leading goal scorers in the First Division, FA Cup, and other leagues.

Racing Older hurdlers gain dominance

By Michael Phillips
Perhaps the most encouraging aspect of the racing at Ascot on Saturday was the attendance...



Tree Tangle at the last flight on his way to victory.

Like Newbury, Ascot is well placed for several of the more affluent couples and served by a motorway within easy reach of London...

match for their older rivals. Attivo is obviously capable of better things, but he has been on the losing side of the race...

Leicester programme

Table listing Leicester racing programmes including Christmas Pudding Hurdle, Holly Steeplechase, and Ivy Hurdle.

Leicester selections

Table listing Leicester racing selections for various races.

Petch would be ideal for Jockey Club

By Jim Snow
After 20 years as manager, clerk of the course and secretary to the racing committee at York, Major Leslie Petch hands over the reins to his son-in-law, John Sanderson...

Under his drive and administration the racing industry has prospered and higher. A magnificent stand has been built, and historic races, the Gimcrack Stake Great Voltigeur, Nunthorpe Stake and the Ebor Handicap, to name a few...

Rowing Cambridge have nucleus for powerful Boat Race crew

By Jim Ralton
Twenty-four Cambridge men competing in two races—eight in the Boat Race and 16 in the trials on Saturday on the Adelaide course at Ely...

Cricket

Table listing cricket results and fixtures, including matches between Hampshire and Warwickshire.

Weekend results and tables

Table listing weekend football results and league tables for various divisions.

Racing For the Record

Table listing racing records for various events and horses.

Nottingham

Table listing Nottingham racing results.

Rugby League St Helens 7 points ahead

St Helens opened the gap at the top of the Rugby League's first division to seven points with a runaway 20-2 victory against Warrington at Knowlsey Road yesterday...

Boxing

Table listing boxing results and fixtures.

Ice hockey

Table listing ice hockey results.

Horse show

Table listing horse show results.

Weightlifting

Table listing weightlifting results.

كندا من الأصل

"We are monks, not businessmen, and we depend on Midland Bank advice and support"

-Dom Dyfrig Rushton, Abbot of Prinknash Abbey nr Gloucester



The old Abbey of Prinknash has existed in one form or another for over a thousand years.

The historic old house with 25 acres was given to the Benedictine Community on Caldey Island off South Wales in 1928.

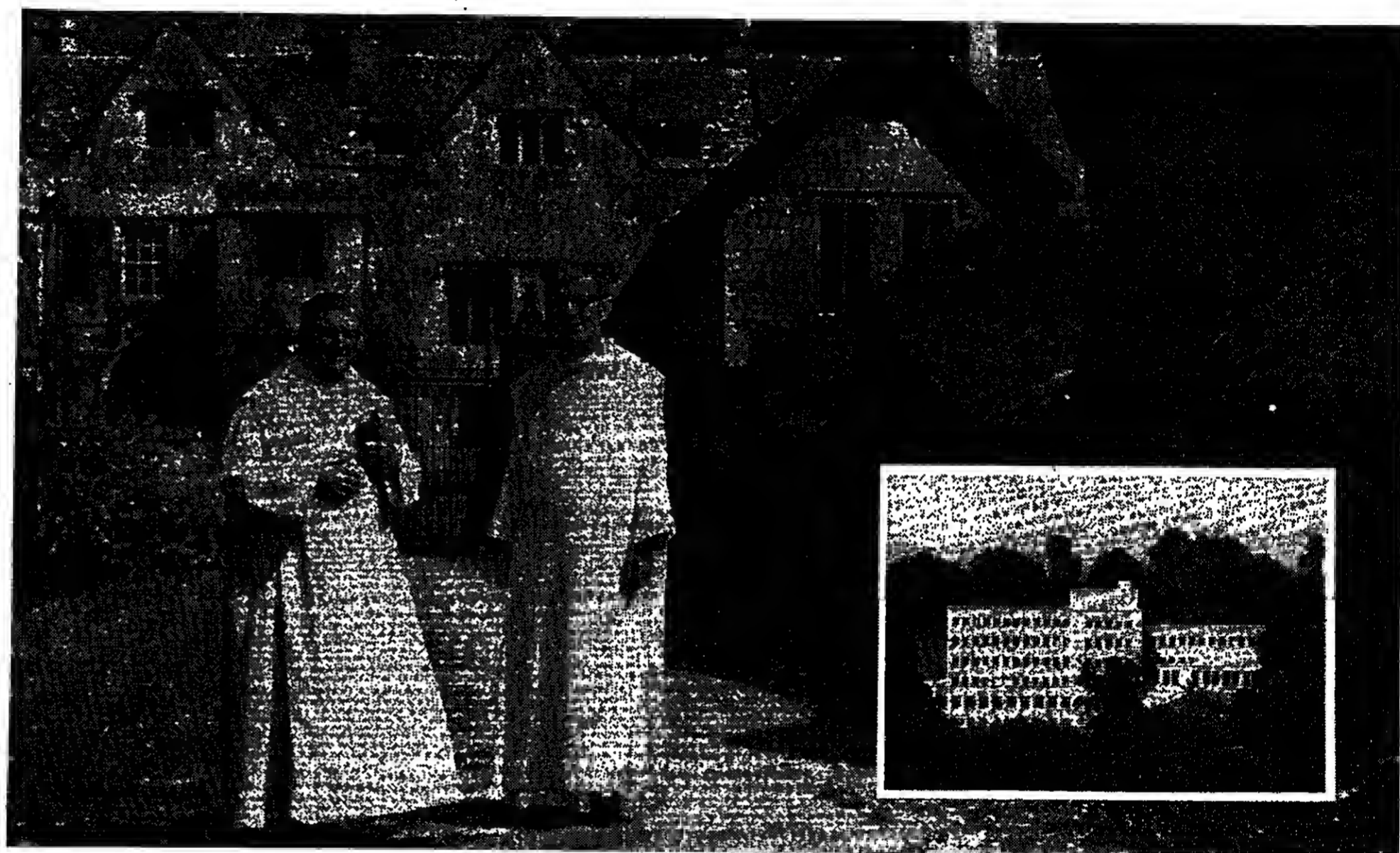
In 1922, while the community was still on Caldey Island, they opened an account with Midland Bank at Birmingham, later transferring it to Gloucester when they moved to Prinknash Abbey.

"Our community has to be self-supporting," says Father Leo, the Abbey's Bursar, "the Midland have always helped us when we needed help and we rely on their advice to keep us afloat."

The community moved to Prinknash in 1928, and their first concern was to build a larger home.

The foundation stone was laid in 1939. But war delayed work, and the new Abbey was only finished in 1972, the monks themselves carrying out all the ironwork, glasswork and organ building.

On the advice of their bank manager, they deposited capital with Midland Bank Finance Corporation, where it



continued to earn money until it was required to pay contractors' costs.

They also needed to make the Abbey economically viable. Gradually they established a 300-acre farm, with pigs, poultry, and dairy and beef herds.

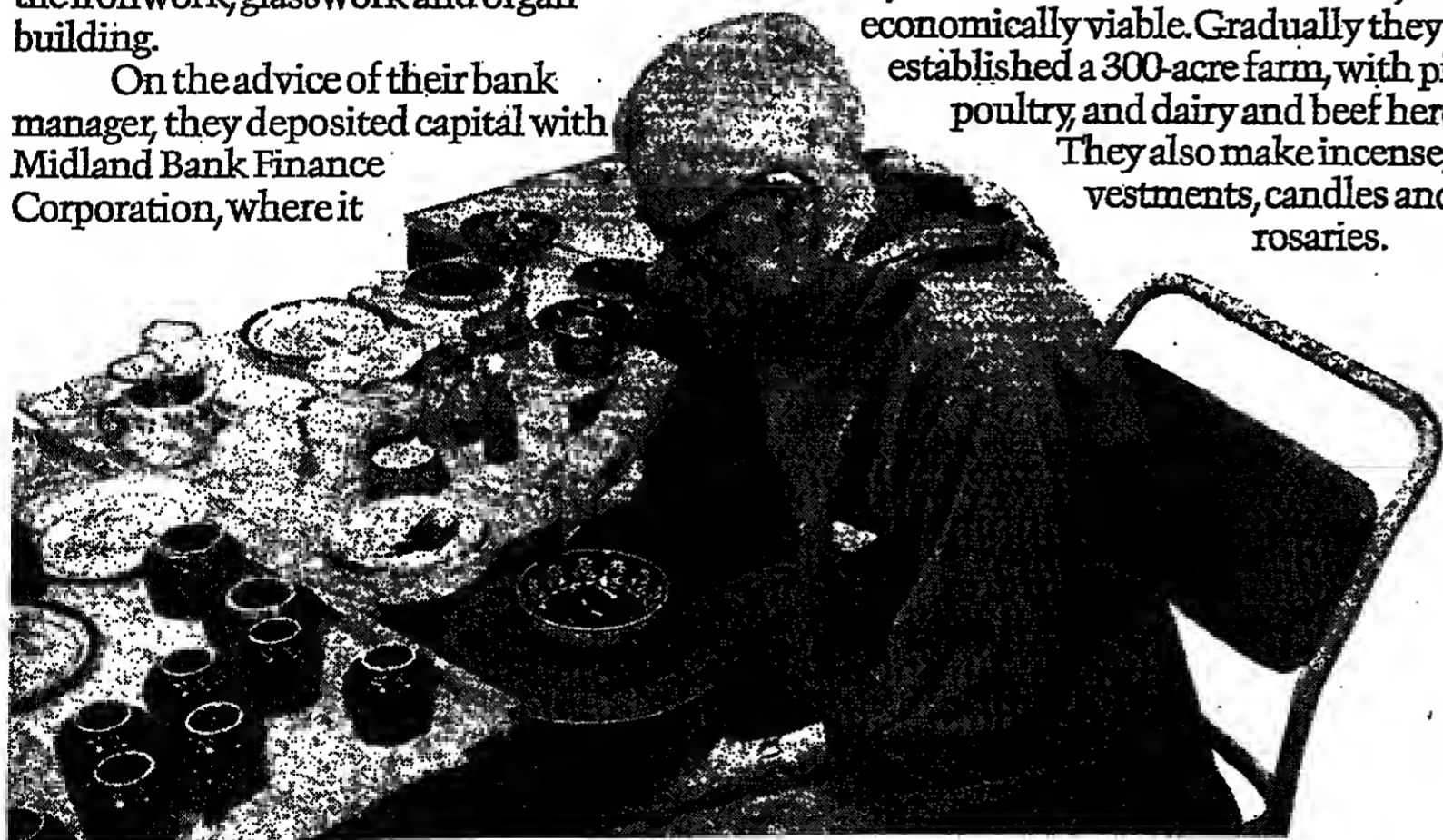
They also make incense, vestments, candles and rosaries.

Midland Bank also help the Abbey with this export business, carrying out all the necessary documentation on its behalf.

Today, Prinknash Abbey is a thriving community, with other foundations at Farnborough Abbey and Pluscarden Abbey in Scotland.

"Making ends meet isn't always easy," says Dom Dyfrig Rushton, present Abbot of Prinknash, "especially since our religious duties take precedence over every other activity."

"We are monks, not businessmen, and we depend on Midland Bank for advice and support."



Prinknash pottery.

But the Abbey's main source of income today is the new pottery, built with financial help from the Midland. The craft started when excavating the new Abbey foundations revealed a rich seam of clay.

"At first, we made pottery for our own use," says Father Fabian. "But the idea snowballed, and today we have a world-wide export business in decorative and domestic tableware, tankards and candleholders—all designed by Brother Thomas."



There's no such thing as a typical customer of Midland Bank. So there are remarkably few kinds of organisation which can't benefit from our vast range of experience and resources.



Midland Bank Group

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UNIVERSITIES FEEL THE PINCH

The financial condition of many universities, and indeed of higher education in general, is fast approaching a critical state...

lished in December, 1972. Last month Mr Prentice gave a new target of 640,000 student places at the end of the decade...

opportunity to discriminate between what is central to their academic purposes and what is peripheral...

Britain and the Middle East

From the Editor of The Guardian Sir, Your front page yesterday (December 16) correctly reports the Guardian's spokesman as saying that last week's Middle Eastern advertisement was rejected by us because we felt that it could encourage racial hatred...

From Mr Simon Walker Sir, I was one of those who wrote to you initially protesting about the full page advertisement placed by the "Committee for Justice in the Middle East"...

Israel and Unesco's work

From the Editor-in-Chief of the Unesco Courier Sir, I have read with surprise the letter to the Editor entitled "Exclusion of Israel from Unesco" published in The Times of December 5...

It is equally untrue to state that Israel has been excluded from all the regional activities of Unesco. The United States, Canada, Australia and New Zealand are excluded...

Incitement to disaffection

From Mr J. R. Beevor Sir, I the undersigned (to borrow the style of the National Council for Civil Liberties and its friends) consider that the Incitement to Disaffection Act 1934 is essential to the defence of the public interest...

It is entirely appropriate that any person who attempts to suborn any soldier into committing such offences should be liable to penalties equal to those faced by the soldier himself...

WE WILL TO DEFEND EUROPE

security of Europe depends in the moment on maintaining a balance of power between east and west. This balance depends on a firm American commitment to Europe...

in some other part of the world, such as the Middle East, they might threaten Berlin. Nato therefore needs to be capable of a graduated flexible response...

Nato governments spent their money better they could do a lot to maintain the military balance without enlarging their defence budgets...

Medical salaries and NHS

From Dr M. S. Rose Sir, This really is a ridiculous country. How on earth can an official body seriously contemplate a 15% rise in salaries for senior civil servants?

Wealth tax and art dealers

From the President of the British Antique Dealers' Association Sir, Mr Norman St John-Stevenson, MP, asked the Minister for the Arts in the House of Commons (December 13) what steps he proposed to take to prevent the flight of the fine arts market to other countries?

Cathedral collapses

From Mr P. Silby Sir, The first leader of December 11 referring to the work of medieval architects and masons stated few engineering mistakes were made and cited the collapse of the nave at Beauvais as a rare example...

Clergy stipends

From the Reverend Michael K. Barling Sir, Over the past few weeks the tone of the letters on clergy stipends has been one of gloom and despair. The suggestion is that we are all nobly bearing an unjust burden...

Break before university

From Miss F. H. Gwilliam Sir, Correspondents who have written to you about the year's break between school and university have referred with regret to VSO's "curtailment of its school-leaver scheme"...

Foxes not pests?

From Mr R. F. Rowley Sir, Sir Richard Goodwin, secretary of the British Field Sports Society, is hoist with his own petard in criticizing the recent national survey on "Foxes and Farming" (The Times, December 7) conducted by a company of high repute on our behalf...

Public lending right

From Lady Antonia Fraser and others Sir, While otherwise endorsing your timely leading article (December 12), may we try to nail once and for all the misapprehension that "unfortunately such studies as have been made show that the administrative complexity and cost of directly relating the public lending right to the schemes of the Writers' Action Group is originally proposed in 1973 and which is now the agreed policy of all the major associations and unions of writers is in essence the same as schemes now being operated in several countries...

From Mr Derek Parker

Sir, In your leading article of December 12 you doubt the justice of P.L.R. and compare the lending of books with the hire of motor cars, etc, stating that once a car has been bought by a hire firm, no further payment for its use is made to the manufacturer...

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Wood

grouping strength Europe

toy Mason, the Secretary of Defence, has wholly the passion for designing the necessities that declare his ties and commitments both as a member of the House of Commons (see the Joy Brewery tie) and as a member of the Opposition...

don of gross national product, from the present level of 5 1/2 per cent to 4 1/2 per cent, or £750 in 1974 prices? Mr Mason can scarcely be expected to make the point that a country's defence will only be as strong as its economy permits...

posals will be critically scrutinized by the military committees of the Defence Planning Committee. Ministers, under the chairmanship of Admiral of the Fleet Hill-Norton, who has a formidable reputation for toughness...

As the Commons goes into today's debate, a Conservative and a Labour hiccup of logic are worth noting. It is a plain rule that defence is the servant of foreign policy; and the defence review has been designed to regroup British ground and air strength to meet any threat to the land mass of western Europe...

Transplants:

Unsympathetic public attitudes and legal confusion mean that time is running out for thousands

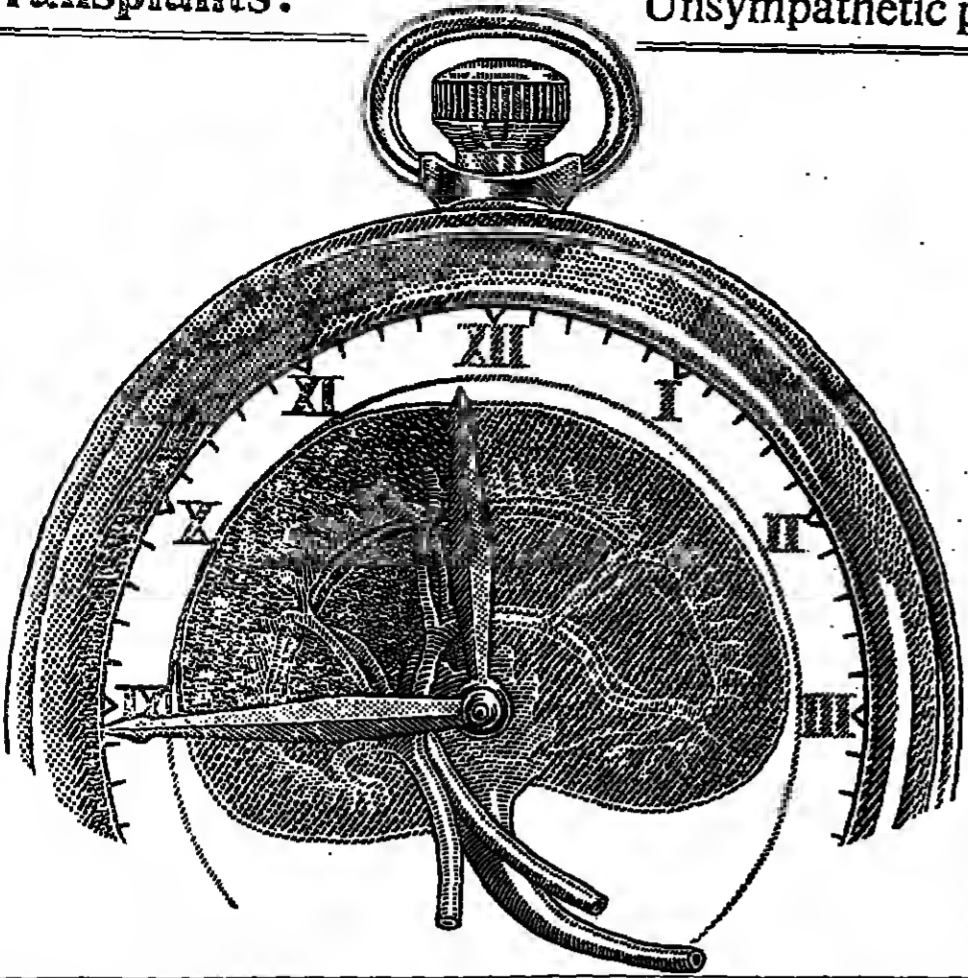


Illustration by Bill Sanderson

Queueing for a chance to live again

No surgeon would willingly use second-rate equipment or materials in his operations, yet British doctors are transplanting kidneys that would be rejected as substandard by their colleagues in Europe and the United States. They do so simply because so few kidneys are offered for transplantation in Britain.

A combination of unsympathetic public attitudes, the confused state of the law, and indifference by doctors has meant that in many hospitals little or no attempt is made to remove kidneys from patients dying after minor accidents or from brain damage. As a result transplant surgeons are just not getting the kidneys they need; and almost daily they face a decision between using a poor quality kidney (and risking the patient's life in so doing) or telling the patient that he will have to go on waiting (and so

lengthening the queue of dying patients needing treatment). Each year another 2,000 persons with kidney disease reach a stage to their illness when death would normally occur within a month or so. Many of them can now be kept alive by three sessions a week of dialysis on an artificial kidney machine, but they have to eat a restricted diet and drink very little fluid—and they never feel really well. In contrast, when a transplant operation has been successful the patient feels fit again, can eat and drink normally, and is no longer dependent on his artificial kidney. Not surprisingly, many patients who have had a year or so of life on an artificial kidney are prepared to take the risk of a transplant.

The risk is very real, despite the fact that (alone of the major organ transplantation procedures) kidney grafting has become a routine treatment in many technically advanced countries. At least 15,000 kidney transplant operations have been done in Europe, North America, and Australasia since the early 1950s, most of them in the past five years. About 7,000 of the patients treated are alive and

well with functioning kidneys; another 3,000 are alive but their transplanted kidneys are not functioning and they are back on dialysis; but the remaining 5,000 are dead.

Despite these risks many patients volunteer for a transplant after months or years of dialysis treatment—and it is not uncommon for a patient to ask for a second transplant if his first kidney functions for only a short period. The quality of life for the patient does seem to be much better with a transplant than on dialysis.

But there is another, more compelling reason for transplantation. With 2,000 fresh patients needing treatment for kidney failure each year the NHS would need to supply nearly that number of new artificial kidneys each year if all patients were to be treated by dialysis. It has neither the money nor the intention to do so. Current policy is that the emphasis should be switched from dialysis, either at home or in hospital, to transplantation.

Concentration on transplantation in some ways a draconian solution but it makes social, economic, and medical sense. Long-term dialysis is

expensive, demanding large numbers of specialist staff, and the restrictions it imposes on the patient can be demoralising. In contrast, when patients are treated by transplantation the operation is relatively cheap and a straightforward procedure; and if it is a success the patient no longer needs his artificial kidney.

Clearly, then, if most patients with kidney failure are to be treated by transplantation there must be an adequate supply of kidneys of adequate quality. In Britain at present neither is the case. About 500 kidney transplants are done each year; but many more than 500 patients are waiting for a transplant at any one time. This disparity between the numbers of patients needing kidneys and the numbers available has led surgeons to use "doubtful" kidneys, and it is not surprising that many never function properly.

The quality of kidneys determines the chances of success. Thousands of experiments on animals have shown that to have any chance of functioning a kidney must be removed within an hour of death, and the shorter the delay the better. Once removed, the kidney can be cooled and stored in ice while arrangements are made for the operation, but the vital factor is the warm ischaemia time—the minutes that pass with the kidney still inside the body at body temperature but with no blood flowing through it.

In many countries leading surgeons are not prepared to use kidneys removed after death—some delay is inevitable and every minute inside the old body damages the organ. Instead they rely on the two sources of "living" organs. First, relatives may volunteer or be persuaded to volunteer to give up a kidney.

The results obtained are distinctly better than when kidneys removed after death are used. One year after operation the chance that a kidney taken from a brother or sister will be functioning normally is 85 per cent or more, but for a kidney taken from a dead body the figure is nearer 70 per cent. Only one British centre, the University of Newcastle upon Tyne, makes regular use of kidneys taken from patients' relatives.

The second way in which "living" kidneys can be obtained is for them to be removed from the body while the heart is still beating. In several parts of the world laws

have been passed allowing death to be certified when brain function ceases. The Californian state legislature, for example, has agreed that "a person may be pronounced dead if, based on usual and customary standards of medical practice, it is determined that the person has suffered an irreversible cessation of brain function."

However, recent developments suggest that better results may soon be possible from the use of cadaver kidneys. After their removal from the body kidneys may be kept in cooling fluid through their blood vessels. Research has now shown that chemical tests can be done on the kidney while it is being perfused in this way and that these tests give an accurate prediction of the chance that it will function properly after transplantation.

A recurrent complaint from patients and the public is that doctors never consult them about difficult problems of this kind. Kidney transplantation is one example where the medical profession would welcome help. No one wants to see patients, many of them young and otherwise fit, dying from kidney failure and its complications. For the foreseeable future kidney transplantation offers such patients their best chance of survival: but enough kidneys will become available only by public pressure leading to changes in attitudes. There are two possibilities.

First, much more use could be made of kidneys taken from relatives. Few surgeons would welcome such a trend. Medically speaking, the younger the volunteer donor the better—brothers and sisters are preferable to parents. Surgeons believe that it may be difficult to avoid some sort of moral blackmail developing within a family, especially if only one or perhaps two of the patient's relatives are suitable as donors.

Much preferable, then, would be a big increase in the numbers of cadaver kidneys made available from patients dying in hospital. That would allow surgeons to use only the first-class kidneys and to discard those that seemed doubtful when tested on the perfusion apparatus. Changes in public attitudes to transplantation will help, but another factor is the current confused state of the law.

Why doctors refuse to operate

Much of the law on organ transplants is contained in the Human Tissue Act, 1961. But that Act was passed when kidney transplant techniques were still in their infancy. The first successful operation in Britain using a kidney from a dead donor was not to be performed until 1963.

The Act was passed mainly with corneal grafting in mind, and followed closely a 1952 Act on that subject. The medical and ethical factors involved, however, are very different in the two cases. The result has been that, as far as kidney transplants are concerned, both the law and the medical ethics are in a state of confusion.

This has led directly to a serious insufficiency of kidneys available for transplant, and to those that do become available too often being of not sufficiently high standard.

Section 1(1) of the Human Tissue Act provides for cases where a person has made known his wish to have part of his body made available for transplant or research. This wish has to be made either in writing (at any time during his life) or, if made orally, must be in the presence of at least two witnesses during the person's last illness. Where such a wish has been expressed the section goes on to allow "the person lawfully in possession of his body after his death" to remove the part of the body needed.

The Department of Health and Social Security has issued kidney donor cards on two occasions, the more recent being only last month to make it easier for the wish to be expressed in writing.

But all this may be, in law, irrelevant because of difficulty over the interpretation of the words "lawfully in possession of his body". If in law the phrase refers to the authorities of the hospital in which the potential donor died, there is no problem and the kidney can be taken out immediately after death.

The alternative view is that lawful possession of the body is vested in the executors of the deceased. This would mean that after the death of the potential

donor the hospital authorities would first have to seek permission of those executors before being able to remove the kidney. This would give executors the right to override even the stated wishes of the deceased and would also mean that because of the time which might have to be taken in seeking permission the operation could not be performed at all.

This restrictive interpretation is held by the influential Medical Defence Union and by at least some past ministers and officials of the Department of Health and Social Security. Sir Keith Joseph when Secretary of State said in Parliament that the kidney donor cards, even if their new form including the signature of a next of kin, did not authorize a surgeon to proceed with taking a kidney out of the dead body without further inquiry. Many hospitals and surgeons because of the unsatisfactory state of this part of the law are now not performing urgently needed transplants.

In practice, however, the most desirable kidneys are those which can be taken from youngish people who die in hospital after an accident. The vast majority will not be carrying kidney donor cards. The procedure specified by the Human Tissue Act when the potential donor has expressed no known wish is therefore crucial. But here as well there is uncertainty in the law.

The Act provides that "the person lawfully in possession of the body" can authorise the removal of an organ if "having made such reasonable inquiry as may be practicable" he has no reason to believe that the deceased had expressed an objection to having his body used in that way, or that "the surviving spouse or any surviving relative" of the deceased objected.

The first problem is the same as that where the deceased has signed a kidney donor card: whether the hospital authorities are the people lawfully in possession of the body. But even if this is answered affirmatively the difficulty arises from the definition of "reasonable inquiry as may be practicable".

Where corneal grafting is concerned the difficulty is considerably less, because the cornea need not be removed from the dead body for some hours and adequate inquiries can be made. But a kidney, to be of sufficiently high quality for a transplant, has to be taken out of the body within a maxi-

mum of one hour after death. Many doctors in fact believe that even an hour's delay reduces the efficiency of the kidney and that to have maximum confidence removal should take place immediately on death (however that is defined).

It can be argued that in these circumstances "such reasonable inquiry as is practicable" can and should mean very little inquiry. In other words, unless the wife or parent is immediately available to be asked (and this in itself can raise psychological difficulties) nothing more can be required from the hospital authorities or surgeon.

That is not the end of it however. Who counts as a surviving relative under the Act? If one relative has not objected need others be asked as well? If a potential donor's wife agrees, can his mother object?

Questions like these show up another unsatisfactory aspect of the Act. It would not be difficult to specify a limited range of relatives, to place them into some order of priority, and to provide that only one relative need be contacted. A similar recommendation was made by the Bar Council in a memorandum on organ transplants in 1971, which has been completely ignored.

Bringing an end to confusion on these aspects of the law would greatly help hospitals by enabling them to carry out more transplants efficiently. But it might not be enough. Ultimately two further steps may have to be taken.

The first is an "opting out" scheme, under which everyone would be assumed to consent to their kidneys being taken out on death, unless they had specifically made known their objections in some way during their lifetime. The second reform, which has already taken place in some countries, is to provide a legal definition of death which would be based on irreversible brain damage, even though the heart may still be beating. This would allow kidneys to be removed at their peak of freshness.

Public opinion is not yet judged ready for either move. Eventually, however, these changes might be the only way of ensuring that good quality kidneys are available for transplant. But another way these changes will mean thousands of people with kidney disease who are now doomed to die could be given a very real chance of living a full life.

Marcel Berlins

Dr Tony Smith
Medical Correspondent



Now that you know your Scotch, taste what came before.

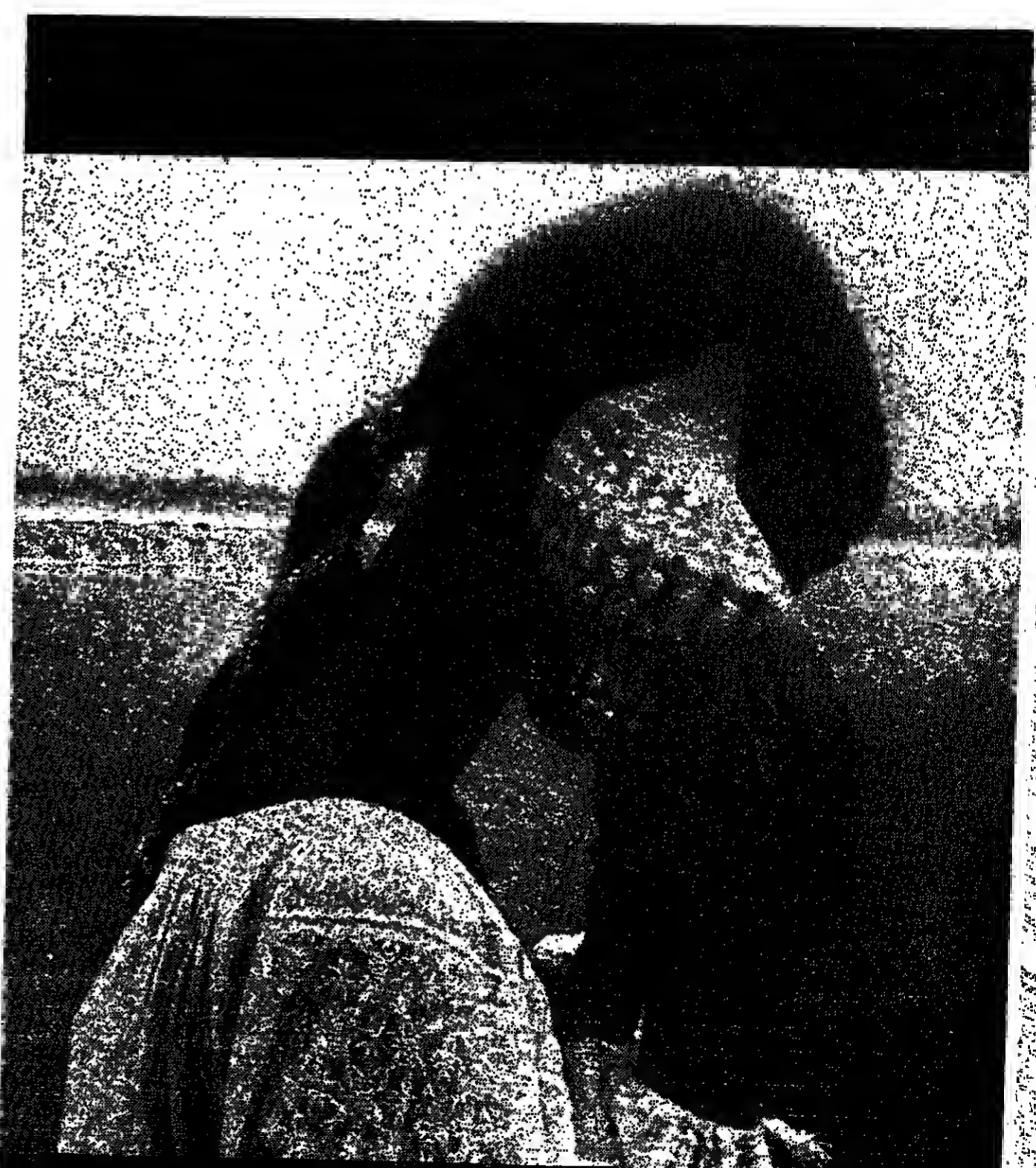
When you drink Scotch today, you're probably enjoying a blend of twenty to thirty different sorts of Scotch whiskies. However, for many centuries before the art of blending was developed, the original whisky of Scotland was pure malt, first recorded in the Scottish Exchequer Rolls of 1494. Glenfiddich Pure Malt has an

aroma and taste very different from the blend to which you are probably accustomed. But the smoothness and mellowness of Glenfiddich is difficult to describe—it can best be experienced.

We could tell you at length about our family distillery at Glenfiddich, the hand-beaten copper pot stills and the pure

Highland water. But for now, let us merely say that William Grant & Sons make Glenfiddich today as we have done for four generations in the traditional way. The result is a pure malt whisky matured for at least eight years—a delight to drink. Why not try a dram with a friend? It could be a great step backwards for you.

Glenfiddich Pure Malt Whisky



Un parfum aux secrets splendeurs...



"Farouche"
Le nouveau parfum
de NINA RICCI

سكننا من الأصل

SOCIAL NEWS

Elizabeth Howard-Smythe... Humphrey Berkeley much re...

Upcoming marriages

J. F. H. Ellis... Miss W. Vestey... Mr. W. A. Clifton...

Latest wills

Mrs Daisy Mary Ackland... Mr. R. B. Ross... Mr. R. B. Ross...

Dinners

Wales and Chester Circuit... Macabreans... The annual Chumchall dinner...

Whittall

A. R. Grace... J. Macdonald... W. Wilkins...

Whittall

A. R. Grace... J. Macdonald... W. Wilkins...

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A. R. Grace... J. Macdonald... W. Wilkins...

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A. R. Grace... J. Macdonald... W. Wilkins...

Study finds religious awareness is not dead

By Clifford Longley... Religious Affairs Correspondent... The fundamental question of the survey was: "Do you feel you have ever been aware of or interested in religion?"

Parliamentary diary

House of Lords... Monday, December 9: Consolidated Bill... Tuesday, December 10: Consolidated Bill...

Parliamentary notices

House of Lords... Monday, December 9: Consolidated Bill... Tuesday, December 10: Consolidated Bill...

University news

New Master of Pembroke College... Sir Geoffrey Arthur, Deputy Under Secretary of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office since 1973, has been elected Master of Pembroke College, Oxford, succeeding Sir George Pickering...

Birthdays today

Sir Walter Adams, 68; Professor Sir Harold Bailey, 75; Mr. F. R. Brown, 64; Lord Margdale, 68; Admiral Sir Graham Nicholson, 72; Vice-Admiral Sir John Norris, 74; Air Chief Marshal Sir Robert Patch, 70; Mr. V. S. Pritchett, 74; Sir Hugh Rose, 72; Sir Roland Symonds, 70; Mr. Justice Thompson, 67.

Science report

Obstetrics: Inducing labour... Not long ago hospital midwives often prepared a special cot for the first baby born on Christmas Day. This year, it seems, some of the women went into labour naturally before the day, and some were born by appointment, but women are beginning to ask how one of the most natural human processes has been transformed to a medical procedure...

Sugar growers determined on a big increase

The cows that some European farmers, including those in England, wanted an extra 36 per cent for their sugarbeet next year instead of the 18 per cent planned by the Government, called for a public by price producers. They were justifying the far larger price rises they wanted the Community because supplying the 1,400,000 tons for which access has been guaranteed...

Agriculture

Hugh Clayton... World prices were of course in double figures not so long ago, but the European's bargaining power that they enjoy is being practically negated by EEC's desperate eagerness to make sure that their own producers are not left behind...

Science report

Obstetrics: Inducing labour... Last month The Lancet summed up the situation: "The chances of the occurrence of a major and life-threatening emergency are greater at delivery than at any other time in pregnancy. It is therefore the time of one's most acute physical and emotional stress."

Science report

Obstetrics: Inducing labour... The medical profession, as divided on this issue, for one has yet proved that the advantages for the baby of daylight delivery outweigh the drawbacks of interfering with the natural process of childbirth...

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OBITUARY

SIR MORRIS FINER

Chairman of Press Commission

Sir Morris Finer, a judge of the Family Division of the High Court and chairman of the Royal Commission on the Press, died yesterday in hospital. It was only last summer that the commission on the one-parent family, of which he was chairman, reported after sitting for five years...

Appointments in the Forces

Royal Navy... Captains: C. M. Robinson, Chief Staff Officer to the 1st Sea Lord... Surgeon-Generals: A. F. J. ... Surgeon-Commodores: C. M. ...

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DR KURT HAHN

Founder of Gordonstoun



Sir Morris Finer, a judge of the High Court and chairman of the Royal Commission on the Press, died yesterday in hospital.

Dr Kurt Hahn, CBE, a great innovator in education, and the schoolmaster of the Duke of Edinburgh at Salem and Gordonstoun, who died on Saturday, was born in Berlin on June 5, 1886, the son of a Jewish family with industrial, medical and musical connections...

MR WALTER LIPPMANN

This was to have been expected, but he later attacked many of the policies of the New Deal, and supported Landon for president. Roosevelt, whom he had earlier admired in New York, was dismissed as a peace-loving man too soft to please and without any important qualifications for the presidency...

MR WALTER LIPPMANN

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Stock Exchange Prices

Capitalization & week's change

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began Dec 9. Dealings End Dec 23. § Corango Day, Dec 24. Settlement Day, Jan 7.

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

(Current market price multiplied by the number of shares in issue for the stock quoted)

SAVILLS PROPERTY INVESTMENT 20 Grosvenor Hill - Berkeley Sq - London W1X 0HQ Telephone 01-499 8644 - Telex 263796

Main table of stock exchange prices with columns for company names, prices, and weekly changes. Includes sections for British Funds, Commercial and Industrial, Local Authorities, Foreign Stocks, Banks and Discounts, Breweries and Distilleries, Financial Trusts, Insurance, Investment Trusts, and Property.

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THE TIMES BUSINESS NEWS

Price code change to cover inflation accounting under government consideration

Tim Congdon changes to the stage four code to allow companies incorporate inflation accounting procedures in their pricing policies are believed to be under consideration by the Government.

The Government may have become more sympathetic to the CBI's position because a move to the LIFO system, followed by a fall in raw material prices, would actually accelerate the fall in product prices that would sooner or later have to follow.

Paragraph 68 is a safeguard clause which should permit companies to achieve a minimum return on capital of 10 per cent. If the rate falls beneath this, 10 per cent serves as the reference level.



Mr Harry Hyams: still at the helm of Oldham Estates.

Mr Hyams sells control of Oldham Estates

By Peter Wainwright Mr Harry Hyams, the proprietor of Oldham Estates, which owns Centre Point office block in central London, to the Co-operative Insurance Society.

World finance ministers expected to back Healey plan for oil fund

By Melvyn Westlake It now seems almost certain that the proposal by Mr Healey, the Chancellor, for an International Monetary Fund borrowing facility to help developed nations with oil-payment problems will be endorsed in principle at the first meeting of the Interim Committee of finance ministers in January.

Committee would give his scheme its blessing. Government officials in Saudi Arabia, which would probably be one of the main contributors to the facility, are believed to have told Mr Healey during his trip there last week that they accepted his scheme in principle.

Several European nations are believed to favour setting up the new facility, although the Americans are thought to be a little less enthusiastic. This is because they are less inclined to such direct arrangements with the oil producers, preferring that the funds so desperately needed by many of the oil-consuming nations should be raised through the market.

Nord Line decides on voluntary liquidation

From Geoffrey Dodd Copenhagen, Dec 15 Faced with debts of about £7.5m to the Vickers group and several banks, the Danish shipping company, Nord Line, decided at a meeting of the partners held in Bredsted, Jutland, on Saturday, to go into voluntary liquidation.

Triumph strikers will hear peace formula after weekend of talks

R. W. Shakespeare agreement, unions and shop representatives from Leyland's strike-bound car plants met almost daily throughout the weekend in attempts to resolve the dispute.

is trying so hard to recreate confidence in its ability to survive the worldwide crisis on the motor industry. In the Midlands the management has had to defend one of its important agreements with the car unions at the worst possible time.

been forced to cut output and put workers on a four-day week. Production cuts and the consequential drop in demand for raw materials and components are rapidly working their way through the pipeline of about 2,000 companies supplying motor industry needs.

Saudis aim to give own tankers preference

By Peter Hill Saudi Arabia is planning to give preference to the export of the country's oil production in tankers owned by Saudi companies.

OPEC's move offers hope of price stability

By Roger Vielvoys The decision of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries to combine its single-price system for crude with a nine-month freeze on oil prices from January 1 gives the consuming countries the best prospect of oil cost stability since the outbreak of the Arab-Israeli war last October.

Kuwait investing 'considerably' in West Germany

Boon, Dec 15—Kuwait has secretly acquired considerable share packages in West German industry in cooperation with West Germany's largest commercial banks, Mr Abu Sa'ud, Kuwaiti financial director said in an interview published today.

US production down 2.3 pc

Washington, Dec 15—Industrial production declined 2.3 per cent in November, its biggest drop in more than four years, following a 0.5 per cent fall in October, the Federal Reserve Board said.

The Times Awards for the best advertisement of a company's results to appear in 1974.

Shellstar's ammonia plant plea Outline planning permission for a new ammonia plant for Shellstar.

Farm cooperatives 'not starved of funds' A call for more efficient marketing by more than 500 registered agricultural cooperatives in the United Kingdom is made in a report published today by the Government's Central Council for Agricultural and Horticultural Cooperation.

Banker found dead A body found in a river at Northampton was identified yesterday as that of Mr John Pryor, of York Terrace, Regent's Park, north London, vice-chairman of the Western American Merchant Bank.

On other pages Business appointments 20 Appointments vacant 18 Financial Editor 19 Financial news 20, 21 Management 18 Share prices 16 Bank Base Rates Table 21 Company Meeting Report: Pontina 19 Interim Statement: The Distillers Company 20 Company Notice: Anglo American Investment Trust 21

Edward Erdman & Company Property Consultants United Kingdom & Overseas

Japan's high growth policy is finished, Mr Miki says Tokyo, Dec 15—Mr Taken Miki, Japan's new Prime Minister, yesterday announced an end to the high growth policy of the last 14 years that has transformed Japan into the world's third economic power.

N Sea tax rate quandary By Our Energy Correspondent Oil company representatives have told the Government that negotiations of North Sea oil licences to provide the state with a 51 per cent stake in 12 commercial oilfields is largely an academic exercise under the rate of petroleum revenue tax has been fixed.

United Kingdom & Overseas

The Times Awards for the best advertisement of a company's results to appear in 1974. The closing date (31st December) for the 1974 Award Scheme is now very close and we would like to remind those companies wishing to take part in the competition that they must submit their entries by 6th January at the latest.

Investment in Agricultural Cooperatives, Central Council, Hancock House, Vincent Square, London, SW1 (2Z).

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Management

Edited by Rodney Cowton

Balancing educational values

Industry is again beginning to question various aspects of the management education scene. While there is nothing to suggest there exists anything comparable to the loss of confidence in academic management education apparent three or four years ago, there is no doubt that serious concern exists about various tendencies now showing.

The focus of discussion is likely to be on two reports published this year by the British Institute of Management. The first document, which appeared some months ago, was drawn up by a working party of the joint BIM/CBI advisory panel on management education, and was based on a survey conducted by the Business Graduates Association. The second report, published last week as a Management Information Sheet, end draws upon the earlier report.

Management education, in common with other areas of education, is entering a phase when severe financial limitations seem likely for a year or two to slow down, if not halt, the rapid development of institutions which has occurred in the last decade or so. There appears to be concern at the BIM that even if quantitative management education will be marking time, qualitatively progress should continue to be made.

While any action is likely to be concentrated on a handful of specific issues which might be susceptible of resolution in the medium term, these are underlaid by one much broader, long-term criticism concerning the whole British educational system.

It is felt that the prevailing values in British education are antipathetic to business aspirations; that the values which are nurtured at school and university among the more able students result in many of them seeing a career in industry or commerce as inferior to one in say the Civil Service or in academic life.

This is a frequently-heard complaint and one that can be met only by a gradual shift in national psychology, probably starting with the business schools and other centres of management education gradually influencing the philosophy of the universities generally, and they in turn diffusing that change of approach through the whole educational system.

But if that is a problem for the next 10 or 20 years, progress towards solutions to the more specific areas of concern related to management education could well be sought in the next year or two. These problems fall into three main categories: the relationship of industry to the management education institutions; the provision of management education; and the employer of business graduates in industry and commerce.

Management education involves a marriage of two philosophies, that of the academic and that of the experienced businessman, and there is clearly some feeling in industry that the correct balance between these two has yet to be achieved.

This manifests itself in the view that there may still be insufficient opportunities for the older businessman, who may lack adequate academic qualifications, to undertake the kind of high level course which is open to post-graduates. It also shows itself in the view held by many industrialists that the greatest benefits of higher management education are felt only when a student has had business experience before entering on a management course.

This insistence on the value of previous business experience also emerges in relation to the provision of management teachers. The survey by the BGA revealed that about half of the business graduates surveyed who were teaching management in 1972-73 had had no experience in industry or commerce. This is seen as a serious shortcoming, though it may be somewhat mitigated by the fact that many management teachers have practical contact with industry through consultancy work.

Among suggested solutions to this problem are the encouragement of companies to release more readily good managers to take up short-term teaching posts, though this may involve "re-entry" problems when the manager returns to his company; the encouragement of existing teachers to seek periods of secondment to industry and the raising of management teachers' remuneration to a level which would attract successful industrialists.

Apart from these anxieties about what goes on in centres of management education, there is also concern about the dispersal of business graduates and others when they have completed their courses. The BGA report showed in late 1972 that more than 30 per cent of

undergraduates who went to business school from manufacturing industry failed to return on completing their courses. It also produced evidence that the production function is being starved of business graduates, for whereas 17 per cent were in production before going to business school, only 6 per cent returned to it. In contrast banking, teaching and consultancy appeared to be particularly attractive to business graduates.

The answer to this problem appears to lie in those areas of activity which feel starved of highly qualified men endeavouring to organize jobs which give the business graduate the opportunity to exercise the wide range of skills in which he has been trained.

One change in the pattern of management education which seems likely to emerge from the next year or two is the increased development of part-time courses. The emphasis of extended management education courses is on full-time highly intensive work.

But it seems likely that companies sponsoring financial stress will become more reluctant either to spare executives for full-time education or to finance them, and it may be that the introduction of less intensive part-time courses would get round this problem.

Business Graduates in Industry. "Management Education: A Survey of Current Developments, Trends and Issues. Both from British Institute of Management, House, Parker St, London, WC2B 5PT.

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The friendly city with growth on its mind

Mr Fred Lloyd Roche, the 43-year-old general manager of the development corporation for Milton Keynes, is given as describing this quarter-million population project in the middle of England as "the friendly city".

In the next few months it may prove more friendly than even he expects to the industrial towns not far from its borders.

For while, in the threatened recession, they stand to see unemployment rising—the car and commercial vehicle production points of Luton and Dunstable being especially at risk—Milton Keynes still displays many hallmarks of continued economic progress.

Industrial progress has been outstanding. Housing provision so far in recent months that industry has been able to complain of labour shortages.

Mr Roche said: "Some imbalance is bound to creep in from time to time in a project of this scale, but they have not been so vocal recently, so things may be easing somewhat."

Industry in the Regions

Nevertheless this area on the border of Buckinghamshire and Bedfordshire still has one of the lowest unemployment rates in the country at well under 1 per cent.

The Blechley and Wolverton employment area manager, Miss Mary Hartwell, made it hard to put a precise figure to this because the population, now 61,000, is growing so quickly.

Vacancies stood at 564 for all workers in November compared with a 1974 peak of 949 in June, but part of this is probably seasonal downturn. People tending to hang on to their jobs because of the recession has also been a factor because this has cut the job turnover rate.

In view of the country's economic prospects, Mr Roche and his colleagues would not have been surprised lately to see a slackening of interest by companies in setting up in the new city. Mr Roche said: "At the moment there is no evidence that the flow of inquiries and expansion of existing companies is in any way easing up. We are still getting more inquiries than we can cope with at our present state of development."

Mr Roche reckons that more people now commute into the Milton Keynes area to work than travel out each day—about 4,000 going in as against 3,000 travelling out.

A considerable proportion of the commuters out go to London, the fast electric rail service having turned the area into a popular dormitory for the capital.

The M1 also runs along the city's north-east boundary—the first-class communications network and the city's equidistant location between Birmingham and London has much to do with its special attraction to industry—and gives easy access particularly to Luton and Dunstable, homes of Vauxhall Motors and the Bedford vehicles factory. At the last census, from Blechley alone nearly 500 workers regularly commuted to Luton and Dunstable.

If the feared decline in new car registrations shows itself next year in lay-offs or redundancies in those towns—there are motor components factories as well as the Vauxhall complexes—the increasing Milton Keynes industrial demand could prove a useful cushion in difficult times.

Nor would it be far for anybody work-hungry in Northampton or Bedford to travel into Milton Keynes.

Milton Keynes is now fast approaching take-off point as a recognizable new city. Since designation of the area in 1967, about 150 new companies have opened up there, from Tesco's central Home Wear warehouse to a Scion data-processing complex. The mix of new industries has been notably diverse.

Among the latest newcomers is Rank Xerox Engineering, which is taking over a 50-acre site for a centre offering more than 1,000 engineering and scientific jobs which will make it the largest new employer so far entering the area. The development corporation has consistently followed a policy of setting up advance factories to speed introduction of new industries. Another 22 of these units will be started before the end of this month at Kiln Farm, one of a necklace of industrial areas around the city.

Work is starting soon on a £30m scheme to build the commercial, social and cultural centre of the new city, towards which the Post Office Staff Superannuation Fund has put up £24m.

Despite the recent hesitations of the big retail names towards new investment, Milton Keynes is almost certainly one plum market they will not be able to afford to ignore.

As Mr Roche put it: "Milton Keynes is basically about housing people, and however bad the economic climate everybody wants that."

The announcement due from Mr Anthony Cresswell, Secretary of State for the Environment, to boost house-building is the latest indication of that. For all concerned, Milton Keynes is as copper-bottomed an investment as you will find anywhere."

It could make Milton Keynes a bright spot indeed in a Britain facing more desolate economic times.

Derek Harris

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Large savings if outdated lamps replaced

From Mr S. E. Brain

Sir, Our experience of present day lighting in Britain certainly supports the main theme of your leader (December 10) on energy savings, namely that many more positive steps are needed to bring home to businessmen how costs can be reduced.

My federation's members estimate that in Britain's industrial and commercial premises there are some 1.5 million outdated lamps. If changed to more modern equivalents, there would be an energy saving here alone of some half a million kilowatt-hours a year.

To take a single more specific example of what is possible, a transfer from 750-watt tungsten filament lamps to 500-watt mercury tungsten means the same lighting for approximately one-third less electricity—or a saving of £1,500 on 5,000 hours of lamp operation.

The Government has already raised tax allowances to 100 per cent on expenditure on insulation of industrial buildings. Hopefully the new loans Mr Varley announced for "energy-saving investment in industry" will extend to lighting, so that dramatic savings of the type shown can be made more widely.

Similar examples can be given for public lighting, where again grant aid would yield quick energy-saving results. By changing the present

1,500-watt lamps lighting the Victoria Embankment to the modern sodium lamps now available, a reduction of 70 per cent can be made in electricity consumed for no loss in efficiency whatsoever.

It is indeed ironic that Parliament should be discussing energy conservation inside Westminster whilst outside air sensors of the most energy-wasteful lights in the Kingdom continue to blaze away.

Yours faithfully,
S. E. BRAIN,
President,
Lighting Industry Federation,
25 Bedford Square,
London WC1B 3HH,
December 11.

From Mr John Harvey

Sir, Responsible managements will acknowledge the need for energy saving both in the national and in their own interests. Some may welcome the following suggestions.

An examination should be made of the capital cost and following fuel cost savings if insulation is applied, particularly in the case of industrial buildings, to glass and roof areas. The economics are frequently disappointing.

The capital cost and following fuel cost savings of applying automatic control at various points in existing installations should then be examined. This

is often a more rewarding exercise. Department of the Environment documentation shows an annual fuel cost savings of over £1m on the capital cost of automatic control in the case of 30 government buildings.

To do this, however, accurate drawings of energy using installations must be available. If the do not exist then surveys may be made to produce them. I examine installations, the bearing system should not be considered in isolation from the electrical installation. Electric expended on lighting also produces heat.

The above matters can often be examined in-house, but since there is still something of the bridge and engine room mentality in wide areas of British industry the management might be told what it wants by independent chartered engineers enjoy telling managements what they do not want to hear. A telephone call to the Association of Consulting Engineers (01-222 6557) will lead to a study which, presented in a part of a loan application to the Department of Energy, will be well received.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN HARVEY,
413 Sydenham Road,
Croydon,
CR9 2LQ, Greater London,
December 10.

ECGD delays and the cost

From Mr R. A. Turton

Sir, As a small exporting company we would pay equal tribute to the overall value of ECGD "cover" mentioned in Mr Whitehead's letter (December 10). Equally, we too, have lost orders because of similar delays.

Our principal market is Austria, and for geographical and linguistic considerations our main competition comes from West Germany. In order to meet this we need prompt answers, which, in turn, require a considerable improvement in the "mechanics" of ECGD.

Particular examples are:

a. In the case of an application for a specific bank guarantee under ECGD we applied on April 19. Our bankers were prepared to finance this transaction immediately (at the preferential rate of 7 per cent per annum), but it was not until November that the approval came through, i.e. a delay of seven months.

b. At present we have outstanding applications for specific bank guarantees dated respectively September 24, October 7 and December 4. There has been no reaction from ECGD except in the latter case.

c. In this case (as in those mentioned by Mr Whitehead) the buyer was unknown to ECGD, whose underwriters asked for "a third party guarantee, preferably from an Austrian bank."

This would indicate that the underwriters are unfamiliar with the Austrian market, as if a buyer is able to provide a third party guarantee (particularly that of an Austrian bank) he has no need of the special terms available through ECGD. In other words, the requirement by ECGD of a third party guarantee in this particular market is the equivalent of an outright rejection of an application.

Whilst, again, we appreciate the services offered by ECGD, we feel there is a lack of co-ordination. First of all, various branches take different attitudes to the same problem.

Secondly, liaison between branches and head office—particularly in the case of applications for specific bank guarantees.

Thirdly, it is impossible for an individual exporter to make direct contact with so-called underwriters who seem responsible for the delays, and whose decision could well be influenced by a direct explanation regarding the terms of the proposed transaction and the status of the buyers, of whose circumstances the exporter has direct knowledge.

In any event, we concur with Mr Whitehead, in his statement that, until the whole ECGD procedure can be improved, the overall loss of export orders will continue to be very substantial.

R. A. TURTON, Chairman,
Bishopsgate Steels (Mechinery)
53 Grosvenor Street,
London, W.1.

Inflation just a symptom

From Mr David Russell

Sir, Inflation, we are repeatedly told, is the evil which we face in this country. But to me, a man constantly buffeted by reports of gloom and doom, it seems that inflation is but a symptom of the real disease from which we suffer, name greed.

I would suggest that greed will never be restrained in some Government, whatever its political colour, has the courage to remove, subject to the qualifications mentioned below, facility which enables people to be granted credit, especially in the form of hire purchase sale and credit cards of which enable people to move more than at any one moment in time they can afford.

Admittedly these are heresies but it is not so far-fetched that they should extend to short-term overdrafts on current accounts nor to mortgages house purchase, nor to the chase on credit of basic essentials for the home.

Detailed regulations obviously have to be drawn but this latter class should include items such as washing machines, dish washers, freezers, stereo systems or vision sets.

There is no reason why people should not save for what they want and wait until they have the money to buy it. One cannot mind the Osbert Lancaster ruin which appeared at the of the Bank Rate crisis in Meudie Littlehampton depicted as saying: "I have trouble with everyone these days. It is even people who means are living beyond their means."

Yours faithfully,
DAVID RUSSELL,
11 Gray's Inn Square,
London, WC1A 2AA,
December 10.

Harder going for self-employed

From Mr C. L. J. Leaney

Sir, I cannot allow C. L. Bethune's misleading statements of December 5 to go unchallenged. He has attempted to work the objections of the self-employed to the proposed new rates of taxation implicit in the amendment to the Social Security Act, 1973, now before Parliament as "Self-employed White by Ignorance or of Frivolous Individualism", although he at least dignified them by the geological device appropriate to thoroughbred stock.

Nevertheless he is wrong. The runner is from a different stable: Self Reliant Objection by Frustration of Taxation without Representation is in fact the correct description.

I accept his figures regarding the maximum stake (maximum contributions for the year starting April 6, 1975, will be £502.32 in respect of an employed person and £285.32 for the self-employed), but Mr Bethune ignores the sponsor element in the first case, ie the employer. In the case quoted the employee pays £198.00; his employer pays the balance and also claims rebate of tax thereon. The self-employed therefore carries a heavy penalty and to work Mr Bethune's analogy to death, the going is harder for him than for the employed.

If the self-employed stumbles and is withdrawn from the race he gets no unemployment benefit. Neither will his retirement pension reflect his average level of earnings.

As Mr Bethune well knows, it is not the money that counts, it is every step the employee is better off after every weekly hurdle throughout the year, the loser's penalty is an additional £160 (requiring £238 of earned income so that the Inland Revenue Levy Board can have a cut) if he is to compete next time round in the State Handicap for Independent Owners.

Yours faithfully,
M. Greenwood (Miss)
for C. L. J. LEANEY,
Regional Officer,
The National Chamber of Trade, Enterprise House,
Heavenly House,
Oxfordshire.

Only one way

From Mr Colin Godley

Sir, In past times I have in France and Germany the currencies of these countries were at risk. For a country there is only one way to take care of such a juncture: person's standards must be lowered and each person's income must be reduced (to the government).

If we all take a 10 per cent in income every six months we should be in a happier time within a relatively time, and able to co-operate seriously an improvement living standards.

Those who say they cannot do it, I would tell them that every man and woman in retirement does this. person going on to pensions not go bankrupt but adjusts to a new standard of living.

Here we are all trying to readjust upwards too constantly increasing tax continuously by inflated and expense accounts.

Which union will give to the country by annual 10 per cent cut in its? Either we do this ourselves outside conditions force it.

Yours sincerely,
COLIN GODLEY,
5 Colonnade House,
South Row,
Blackheath, London, SE3,
December 10.

Discharging waste products

From Mr Roy Jenkins

Sir, Managers of many modern industrial plants prefer to forget that their operation might be in jeopardy if they could not discharge some pretty nasty waste down the drain.

Many may fear that situation is getting worse unless they take action now.

People who gained an "ancient right" to discharge before 1961 have until January 30, 1975, to notify their regional water authority that they have this right under the Public Health Act, 1937.

The section of the new Control of Pollution Act is in force at the moment and has not been shelved. If no notice is given by January 30, 1975, the old right will cease automatically when the Act is put into force next year and a plant operator may find it impossible to discharge until very expensive treatment plant has been installed.

No public body is charged with the duty of warning factory managers of this situation, and the HMSO dispute has absorbed four of the six months originally allowed by Parliament.

Yours faithfully,
ROY JENKINS, Managing Director,
Quantum Science Limited,
27 St George's Road,
Cheltenham,
Gloucestershire.

Comparison of nuclear reactor system

From Mr Arthur C. Tendler

Sir, On November 26, your paper published an article by Geoffrey Greenhalgh on the cost advantages of nuclear power. The figures on how the reactor systems compare were somewhat misleading because they did not reflect the most recent information available. This is particularly true in regard to Babcock & Wilcox.

While your figures indicate that B & W had only one system built, actually the company has three of its units commercially operating, plus a demonstration unit completed in the early 1960s that was the world's first privately financed commercial nuclear power plant.

Recent figures from the Atomic Energy Commission on the performance of the B & W system for Duke Power's Oconee unit, which has completed one year of operation, show a lead factor average of 62.2 per cent and an availability of 74.6 per cent.

If you were to look at just the reactor availability as defined by the Edison Electric Institute, it would show the B & W unit at 92 per cent availability.

Down-time factors affecting reactor criticality are often associated with the nuclear steam system and the AEC figures do not reflect this.

A second B & W system which began operation in September, 1974, has been operating at 100 per cent availability with a 98.8 per cent load factor. A third B & W unit—Duke 2—has recently been declared commercial. Two more will be at the level shortly, a sixth is in power testing and two more units are scheduled to start up in 1975.

In addition to the performance records, B & W through steam generators showing no signs of the tubing that has shown several conventional steam generators around world.

According to the industry publication, *Nuclear News*, a "clean bill of health" for B & W generators. DuPont's Babcock & Wilcox unique and the water chemist's ability.

We feel these are significant facts which should be brought to the attention of your readers.

Sincerely,
ARTHUR C. TENDLER,
Vice-President, International Babcock & Wilcox,
161, East 42nd Street,
New York NY 10017,
December 11.

Consultants demonstrate their worth

A fascinating insight into costs and benefits of employing management consultants is provided in a report published last week by the Department of Industry. It surveys the results of a pilot scheme mounted in 1969 by the Board of Trade to encourage the wider use of consultants by small companies. It covers 227 companies in Glasgow and Bristol which gave 258 assignments to management consultants. Under the scheme, which closed in February, 1969, the Board of Trade paid half of the consultants' fees. The report was written by Mr Colin D. Jones, economic advisor to the Department of Industry.

The general conclusion of the report are that where costs and benefits were quantifiable, companies were on average able to show a profit on the consultants' fees and the cost of implementation in the first year of implementation.

Where results could only be qualitatively assessed, it was felt that in just under 70 per cent of assignments, benefits were likely to outweigh costs, but the report suggests that consultants' fore-

casts of benefits were likely to be higher than those actually achieved.

For one-third of assignments where costs and/or benefits could be quantified, the report relates that £1 spent on consultancy fees. Thus, for every £1 of consultancy fees, costs of implementation worked out at 83p in the first year, while benefits achieved in the first year were £2.10.

Thus at the end of the first year, companies were typically showing a profit on their investment, even though benefits achieved were only about two-thirds of the amount forecast by the consultants.

Where costs and benefits were continued into the second year the profit improved handsomely. The cost in the second year is put at 34p and the benefits at £2.04, although again this figure for benefits was only about two-thirds of the £3.13 which had been forecast by the consultants.

Casual conversations would sometimes suggest that the most common rate for consultants' recommendations is 10

moulder in a dusty filing cabinet, but that is not borne out by this report. In 200 or 78 per cent of the assignments, more than half the recommendations were adopted, while in only 11 of the assignments were none of the recommendations implemented.

In 185 of the 258 assignments, the company was satisfied with the consultants. In 61 cases they were only partially satisfied, and in 12 cases they were dissatisfied. Dissatisfaction with the work done accounted for 40 per cent of the reasons given for lack of complete satisfaction, while dissatisfaction with the personality or effectiveness of the consultant accounted for another 32 per cent and lack of adequate knowledge for the assignment on the part of the consultant accounted for a further 14 per cent of the reasons for dissatisfaction.

In a follow-up question, 22 companies which had not used consultants prior to the pilot scheme were found to have used them again after the scheme had ended, and another 81 which had not used consult-

ants before the scheme said they would use them again if the need arose.

The report hears out what every consultant knows, namely that a high proportion of their assignments arise from personal recommendation, from general reports or from clients who have used their services before. In the pilot scheme more than 60 per cent of companies chose their consultant on these grounds.

The general conclusion one can reach is that if consultants are employed on carefully thought-out assignments and are judiciously chosen, there is a good hope that benefits will significantly exceed costs as early as the first year of implementation, but that consultants' forecasts of the level of benefits may have to be taken with a pinch of salt.

Consultancy and the Smaller Firm. by Colin D. Jones; available from the Industrial and Commercial Policy Division (Department of Industry), Room 601B, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET.



The National Bank of Commerce of Seattle is now Rainier National Bank.

Nearly 200 years ago Captain George Vancouver named a majestic Pacific Northwest mountain in honor of Admiral Peter Rainier of the royal navy.

Today a major Pacific Northwest bank has assumed that same name: The National Bank of Commerce of Seattle is now called Rainier National Bank.

Why a name change? In simplest terms, we were part of a financial family with a lot of different names. We thought if we gave them all a common name, it would make life a little easier for everyone. We chose Rainier.

Same people. Same offices. Same great services. Just a new name that conveys the strength and stability of a growing international network.

RAINIER NATIONAL BANK
SEATTLE • TOKYO • HONG KONG • SINGAPORE • LONDON • NEW YORK • LOS ANGELES

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London Office: 46 Moorgate, EC2 6BH • Donald W. Vollmer, Senior Vice President

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

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Hugh Stephenson

Motor component sector after Leyland aid

Everything short of disaster is at the ratings of most shares in the motor components sector now discerning: many of them are selling at less than ten times earnings, and several offer yields of over 20 per cent. Yet recent results from the sector—Associated Engineering, Jonas Woodhead—have merely been better than expected, they have been positively good. So has the gloom doom been overdone, and will investors take advantage?



Mr. Ladislas O. Rice, joint chairman and managing director of the Burton Group, keeping expanding under control.

In the recent survey of the industry put out by Capel went to some pains to emphasize, discretion is still a part of valour. There are companies in this sector with a relatively small content of original equipment sales, extensive and fast-growing as turnover, and with recovery prospects given the industrial decline to which the British industry has in recent years been painfully prone: this is the fact that British suppliers have this experienced very little of downturn in car component of which other manufacturers are complaining. But a balance sheet, of the type which Lucas, or BBA by claim, is worth any recovery prospects. It is said, it has to be accepted that the situation has been ordered by the Government's decision to support Leyland to a degree has not in fact been recognized in the component manufacturers' ratings. For although the market for original equipment is generally admitted to be now, and all the manufacturers agree that it will be next year—most are for a decline of 5 to 10 per cent in new registrations in the United Kingdom—least, after Mr Benn's pronouncement of the importance of the motor industry, it is generally admitted that the market will not necessarily be such in the way of profits, reinforcing the argument of the sheet strength. For break-even point means many manufacturers, a high turnover means a high profit. However, companies which also have defensive spread stand up to survive but to survive, and particularly if they are strong in metal parts, which should be a main-bone of the industry to defer new car purchases, like Lucas and AE, making a virtue of switching the capital in consequence of petrol costs into the production of parts for diesel engines and to suffer badly from the rise in the motor industry manufacturers' placement market is also strong. For the rest, in Mr Benn between the two sides of the spectrum, at least of the 160 or

an book is made, the licensed dealer acting as agent, not as principal. On the other hand, the OTC investor can come out with a substantial capital gain if he is prepared to take a minimum three-year view. Twinkl, for example, is presently standing at around 40p or twice the OTC issue price three years ago. Attempts to insulate the OTC market from Stock Exchange gyrations have not been 100 per cent successful as Twinkl has come off from around 60p since the top of the bull market but prices and p/e ratios do seem generally less volatile on the OTC market.

An OTC listing usually costs about one tenth of the £100,000 or so needed for a full offer for sale and yet the initial markup in the value of a company on the OTC market has ranged from 10 to 200 per cent. This is a mixed blessing from the estate duty angle but that has to be weighed against bringing in capital to the business on advantageous terms. Rights issues are possible as are paper acquisitions, as Twinkl demonstrated, and dilution of control to homeopathic proportions is avoided. The future may well see an extension of an OTC market here, both by corporate demand and institutional initiative.

Burton Group Weighing up the future

There was a time when trading was not so hot that one could at least point to a retailing group's property assets and the shares could continue to demand a good rating. Today one can perhaps say the same thing but in a rather different sense. Burton Group may well only be capitalized at just over £11m (along with a net worth—largely in properties—of some 10 times that figure), but without the backing of these properties the market value would undoubtedly be appreciably lower. For without that kind of backing, there would have been no property profits last year, the group would have finished in the red, and, to be blunt, there would in many people's minds have been a considerable question mark over the future.

Instead, Burton has been able to use its assets strength to generate the finance needed to reorganize its periphery—to rationalize the Peter Robinson operations and to complete the rebranding reorientation of its French business. Both moves appear to have been achieved successfully and to be bearing fruit. But that is not the only reason why the Burton management is heaving a sigh of relief at the moment. The sales trends in the traditional furniture operations have been far more encouraging in recent months, both in absolute terms and in terms of market share.

Not, of course, that the market is going to believe just like that that Burton has turned the corner. And Burton, by its own admission, is all too aware of the red-hot competition from the Marks & Spencers and C & A's in this world, who do, of course, compete not only on price, but also through their greater ability to draw the customer into the store. For the market, then, the view must be that there is still a testing time ahead—how safe in fact is a yield of 22 1/2 per cent with the "A" at 34p—and that there could well be a few predators interested at any time in the level. The successful predator, however, would need either the blessing of the family or the endorsement of the "A" shares. The latter still looks some way off and the future will depend on the Burton family losing faith in both the management and capitalism.

Final 1973-74 (1972-73) Capitalization £11.4m Sales £127m (£114m) Pre-tax profits £3.35m (£8.28m) Earnings per share 7.42p (11.84p) Dividend gross 6.58p (6.3p)

For students of Whitehall and of the Prime Minister the placing of Sir Don Ryder, as putative head of the National Enterprise Board, in the Cabinet office (and not in Mr Benn's Department of Industry) was intended to create a counterweight within the system. Rather as Mr Harold Lever has a special place in financial matters closer to the centre of political decision than the Treasury, so Sir Don would have the advantages of an inside track in matters of industrial policy. Though neither a politician nor a civil servant, he will soon discover the need for political and mandarin skills of the highest order, if he is to use his position to effect. For Mr Benn has all the resources of a major department at his command. And civil servants of the department who disagree with the Benn policies will resist out of institutional loyalty attempts by an interloper from Downing Street to shape events.

Divided opinions on the prospects for America

The economic news in the United States is getting worse daily—unless you belong to the school of thought arguing that a deep recession is the only way to combat inflation. There is no question but that the United States is experiencing the sharpest economic recession since the Second World War. Real GNP has fallen in each of the three quarters since 1974 and the fourth quarter is expected to show a fall of between 6 and 8 per cent (annual rate). Thus, output will have fallen in excess of 4 per cent during this year and there is more to come.

The unemployment rate has already reached 6.5 per cent and even the most optimistic of forecasters expect the level of unemployment to rise to 7 per cent early next year. Several economists feel that unemployment could reach 8 per cent (or just under seven million persons out of work). And while inflation is still an issue in Washington, unemployment both actual and prospective is now the real worry, even if not always admitted.

Point of conflict

The basic point of conflict both within the Administration and among private economists is how much longer and how much deeper the recession will go before it is reversed. Of the five previous postwar recessions, the average duration was 11 months and the average 13 months. But activity in the early months of 1974 was badly affected by the oil embargo, and it is only in recent months that a classic business downturn has developed. Given the excessive stimulus to spending from 1971 by the Nixon administration, through the Federal Reserve's monetary policy in 1972, sooner or later there would have been a correction, but the 1974 correction is being amplified by the problems of oil prices—as witnessed by the collapse in automobile sales.

Housing is a disaster area arising from the combination of high interest rates and unavailability of mortgage funds, with widespread bankruptcies in the building and property sectors. Consumer spending is still weak outside the automobile area, which is hardly surprising seeing that after-tax incomes have been rising much less rapidly than consumer prices, and businesses are currently busy cutting their investments.

The professional economic forecasters can be divided into the "optimists" and the "pessimists", even though both groups foresee further falls in output arising from inventory cuts in the first few months of 1975. The optimists take the view that the inventory adjustment will be over by next spring and that real capital spending will not fall to anything but a relatively marginal degree in 1975.

As critics of the forecast is the expectation that capital expenditure (already committed) in paper, petroleum, chemicals, and metals will continue to grow and offset cuts in other industries. Most important, this group

prise Board, Mr Benn is steadily getting on with the practice. Indeed, in certain respects he is preempting decisions which the Government has not formally made and which may need legislation. In most ways the interventionist activities of Mr Benn are a straight development of the policies of the last Government, executed by Mr Peter Walker and Mr Christopher Chataway through the industrial development executive, using the huge powers of the Industry Act. Indeed, the fact that Mr Benn has been able to operate actively during the whole of this year on the powers of that Conservative Industry Act is not without interest. There are fundamental areas of coincidence between the approaches and attitudes towards industrial policy of Mr Benn and Mr Walker. They talk the same language and dream the same visions.

German strategy in opting for reflation

After months of agonizing, West Germany has at last reformed its economy. The measures announced last week by the Cabinet are not relatively modest but they show that the Bonn Government is now firmly committed to fighting the onset of recession both in Germany itself and, by extension, in the rest of the world. Taken at the top of the extra DM14,000m which will be pumped into the economy during 1975 as a result of an already announced tax reform, with these fresh measures government policy is now clearly trying to steer the country back to expansion.

There is no doubt that Chancellor Schmidt's recent blabbering has convinced him of the need for this kind of action, overturning the view which he was putting forward only a few months ago. The Germans now see themselves clearly as one of the two leading industrial and economic powers in the West, with the rights and responsibilities that go with that position. Unless Germany pursues an expansionist policy, the strain on the deficit countries, most notably the United Kingdom and Italy, would be too great to bear. The trade surplus in Germany topped £770m last month, and after a hiccup in the autumn the Deutsche mark has once again re-established itself as a strong currency.

Indeed, nothing that the Germans do in the way of revaluing the Deutsche mark seems to make a significant dent on their payments surplus. Traditionally, parity changes affect the balance of payments of a country in the long run, but what is traditionally known as the J-curve. When a currency is devalued the lower export prices result first of all in a worsening of the payments situation and then, as volume increases and the economy grows, the balance of payments improves. Rates on certificates of deposit are expected to ease gradually from the present levels of 9 1/2 per cent for three month funds, but the degree of reduction is expected to be limited.

Similarly, there is no immediate sign of a shift in fiscal policy, but that can be expected to change as the level of unemployment mounts. Understanding that the economy is concerned about overdoing any stimulus to spending for fear that the economy, once it does start moving upwards, rebounds too rapidly and the problems of stagflation are repeated, but still an inflation rate close to double figures.

Nevertheless, if the pessimists are proved right, then President Ford is likely not only to sanction increases in expenditures proposed by the new, heavily recessed, Congress but can be expected to propose tax cuts, although alongside measures to curb energy needs. Whatever are the philosophical views of high Administration officials, President Ford is likely to do nothing in the face of the recession since the 1930s. And already the talk of wage and price controls is being heard again.

Geoffrey Bell

dominant purpose of intervention is increasingly to preserve existing jobs for their own sakes. Mr Benn seems to be personally committed to a crusade to remove the scourge of redundancies from the face of the land. This means that the thrust of the Industry Act is somewhat diverted from a primary concern with industrial development or restructuring, and the creation of modern capacity, into altogether less radical channels. As the recession gathers pace this aspect of the work is likely to grow. The Treasury will presumably wish to limit the total to be spent in the particular form of outdoor relief. At present there seems to be some rule of thumb for the amount of money that may be spent to secure a job, though this informal ceiling was well truly breached in the case of Court Line. Secondly, Mr Benn seems to have decided to proceed as if the Companies Act had already been amended to give workers the same (or even greater)

rights in the companies for which they work as shareholders. Questions one, when an industrial situation now comes to the Department of Industry, is whether the workers have been consulted and what they want. Mr Benn has had certain difficulties, as with George Kent and Meriden, arising from the fact that the answer was different, depending on which group of workers you asked. One also suspects that Mr Benn considers this sort of direct democracy more appropriate to our conditions than playing with two-tier boards or worker directors. But, while there is wide agreement that the Companies Act needs changing to give employees a position in law analogous to that of shareholders, the fact is that the law has not yet been changed. Officials, receivers and others currently being dragged along in Mr Benn's wake may well unasily feel that they lack the full coverage of the law as it stands.

the Counter owing ket

of unquoted shares as the currency in Twinkl for The Shannon k seems to have stirred interest in the concept of the counter equity market is if the volume of enquiries since the investment bankers, Nightingale, is anything like the 160 or

Business Diary in Europe: This happy breed

ish, it seems, are with their lot than on wealthier partners in the Dutch, that, at the finding of a published by the Dutch for Statistics in an. *Contentment and* y, was carried out of last year, just when crisis hit the Western It was planned to run parallel to the British dance Research Council study on social atti Dutch report the re- two are compared, outcome is, to say the remarkable. groups were asked to a scale of one to 10, tree of satisfaction with aspects of their daily including work, health and The Dutch scored an of 6.9 and the British

Star gazing

Nearly two years after the enlargement of the EEC, new "Euro" number plates with nine stars, one for each member state, are available for the civil servants at the Community offices in Brussels. Since the British, Danes and Irish joined, new arrivals in the European capital have had to make do with Belgian red and white number plates. Older hands from the original member states who were in Brussels before enlargement day have soldiered on with out-of-date blue and white Europlates with six stars. The tardy arrival of the updated versions is not universally acclaimed. The new design, which like the old carries the letters EUR, is less aesthetically pleasing, because the designers clearly found it difficult to devise nine stars evenly round the plate. With six stars it was a simple matter of putting three stars above the letters and three below. There has also been resentment among Eurocrats with old plates, who have discovered they must buy two new plates at about £3 apiece. By contrast, newcomers who have ordinary Belgian number plates are under no obligation to change them. There were a number of reasons for the two-year delay, one being that a first batch, produced with 10 stars in the heady days when Norway was

Odell file

Professor Peter Odell, the man who regularly launches bolts of optimism with the object of scolding the arguments of the political and industrial pundits who are painting our future so black, is not the enfant terrible his opponents make him out to be. Controversial he is, and will remain so long as he sticks to his guns and insists on preaching, for instance, that the oil

Debt financing

And, just as in the United Kingdom, a great many companies are relying heavily on debt to finance their expansion. To increase their borrowings or are not in any position to raise new borrowings and yet cannot raise equity funds. Finally, the pessimists are concerned about the strength of United States exports against a background of money rising (at best) or falling world output. Above all, those taking a gloomy view about the future of the United States economy are influenced by the very great uncertainties facing government business and consumers. Even before the quadrupling of oil prices the Western world was suffering from unprecedented rates of inflation, and the oil situation has made the situation that much worse. So it is small wonder that

Earlier mistake

However, while interest rates are now expected to resume their downward trend, views have been revised on how far the fall will be. Few observers expect the Federal Reserve to repeat the mistake of 1972 and pump money into the economy regardless, for fear of rekindling inflationary pressures if not in 1975 then in 1976 and beyond. Rates on certificates of deposit are expected to ease gradually from the present levels of 9 1/2 per cent for three month funds, but the degree of reduction is expected to be limited. Similarly, there is no immediate sign of a shift in fiscal policy, but that can be expected to change as the level of unemployment mounts. Understanding that the economy is concerned about overdoing any stimulus to spending for fear that the economy, once it does start moving upwards, rebounds too rapidly and the problems of stagflation are repeated, but still an inflation rate close to double figures. Nevertheless, if the pessimists are proved right, then President Ford is likely not only to sanction increases in expenditures proposed by the new, heavily recessed, Congress but can be expected to propose tax cuts, although alongside measures to curb energy needs. Whatever are the philosophical views of high Administration officials, President Ford is likely to do nothing in the face of the recession since the 1930s. And already the talk of wage and price controls is being heard again.

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PONTIN'S LIMITED

SUBSTANTIAL ADVANCE IN TURNOVER AND PROFITS

The 34th Annual General Meeting was held on 13th December in London. The following are extracts from the circulated statement of the Chairman and Joint Managing Director, Mr F. W. Pontin:

The Accounts show a substantial advance both in turnover and profits. The United Kingdom and the overseas operations both played their part in producing these very satisfactory results during a period of rapid inflation and uncertain economic conditions. Trading Results—The group profit before taxation amounted to £3,723,574, an increase of 144% on the previous financial period. The Group profits included £115,439 commission due to me under my Service Agreement, which I have decided to waive as a gesture in supporting the Government's counter-inflation policy. This increase in profits reflects the effect of continued capital expenditure by your Company on additional accommodation and improved facilities and the increased success of Christmas opening and the additional use of the Company's premises for conferences.

Future Outlook—The past few years have seen a considerable strengthening of your Group both by internal development and by acquisition. The Directors of the Company are confident that the Group is well equipped for this progress to continue, provided always that general economic conditions do not change fundamentally. Preliminary figures for the season which has just ended indicate that the Company has enjoyed another very successful season in the United Kingdom in spite of the escalating costs, much of which cannot be recovered by increased tariff charges due to the Government's present counter-inflation policy. In the light of the general falling-off in demand for holidays abroad this year, the original extended Pontinland programme was reduced in April. This together with the early closure of the Holiday Village in Greece following the troubles in Cyprus, and the possible loss of up to £250,000 already paid in respect of flying requirements prior to the collapse of Court Line, will have a limited effect on Group profits for the year ending 31st March 1975.

Activities—The Group operates 33 holiday properties comprised of 13 catering holiday camps and 9 self-catering holiday villages in this country, whilst overseas there are 3 hotels in Torremolinos, Majorca and Sardinia and 4 holiday villages in Jersey, Channel Islands, Majorca, Greece, Morocco and Costa del Sol.

David Blake

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Cawoods at peak but construction outlook is poor

Record interim results seem to augur well for Cawoods Holdings in spite of gloom over the prospects for the building, civil engineering and road works sector.

The Distillers Company Limited

The Distillers Company Limited presents the following unaudited report of Group profit for the half-year ended 30th September, 1974:

Table with 2 columns: HALF YEAR ENDED 30/9/74 and HALF YEAR ENDED 30/9/73. Rows include Turnover, Consolidated Profit, Profit before taxation, etc.

Interim Dividend The Board has today declared an interim dividend for the year ending 31st March, 1975, at the rate of 2.0125 pence per share.

Review of Trading The period under review was a buoyant one for sales of Scotch whisky and gin and shipments to the United States were particularly large in advance of a threatened dock strike in that country.

Since September our ability to meet orders received has been somewhat restricted by industrial action both within our own plants and elsewhere.

Economic Conditions The Board would normally have sought to raise substantial long term funds about this time in order to finance investment in buildings and plant and in additional stocks of Scotch whisky.

Brownlee is hit by weak demand and margins

Although turnover of Brownlee, the Glasgow-based timber merchant, has increased from £5.3m to £6.3m, interim pre-tax profits have dropped from £796,000 to £573,000.

GCI—Scots Tea offer lapses

Although the offer by Grand Central Investment Holdings for Scottish Ceylon Tea has been accepted by holders of 70 per cent, 90 per cent acceptance was necessary for the bid to succeed.

Business Appointments

New deputy chairman named at Seagrams

Mr Roger Lamberth has become deputy chairman and managing director of Seagram Distillers.

Mr John Evers, director of the British Gas Corporation, will be succeeded by Mr William L. Nammann.

Mr W. Kirby has joined the board of Hawthorn Baker.

Mr J. E. Black has become a regional director of Forward Leasing.

Mr R. D. Dale has been elected president of Overseas Mining Association.

Mr J. N. W. Bearder is to become chairman of the health and food manufacturing division of Booker McConnell.

Mr P. F. Robinson joins the board of Hunt and Winterbottom.

Mr D. A. Rolles has been appointed director of the TIA Research Institute.

Mr C. Galliford has been appointed chairman of British Building & Engineering Appliances.

Mr J. K. Wilson has joined the board of Executive Dynamics.

Mr Ellis Wright has been appointed managing director of Rowallan Creamery.

Profits fall slow at Bristol Evening Post

The second half of last year showed a fall at the Bristol Evening Post in taxable profits and although this trend is followed in the first half of 1974-75, the fall is not as steep.

Mr Suggett under fire on Cordova affairs

In order to answer shareholders' expressed concern over aspects of the affairs of Cordova Land, Mr Kenneth Suggett, is being asked among other things to hold the next annual meeting in London.

In view of present uncertainties facing industry, no forecast is made. Since the year end, however, the board reports that there has been no further fall in demand, but margins have continued under pressure.

Inflation the key factor at Pontin's

Pontin's, the holiday group, has raised its 1975 prices by about 17 per cent, but "it remains to be seen" whether this will be enough to beat inflation.

Cope Allman trims its expenditure

Although Cope Allman International had planned to spend between £3m and £10m on capital equipment in the past year, this proved impossible.

Hunsel labour worry

Engineering group Hunsel (Holdings) is having serious difficulty in recruiting certain categories of skilled labour and some components are in short supply.

Ladbroke's holiday boom

The home holiday industry will boom in 1975 and it will do so at the expense of overseas holidays.

Associated Tooling

A jump in interim turnover from £610,000 to £1m is partly attributable to the purchase of Tring Engineering by Associated Tooling Industries.

Diversification will aid Messina

While Commander Grenfell will be more forthcoming at the Messina (Transvaal) Development annual meeting next month on both the copper market and the company's prospects, already one can assume that this recent diversification play a greater part than hitherto in the group's future.

Mining

where the increase in pre-tax profits from 21.5m rand to 39.7m rand was almost entirely due to the enhanced copper price.

No surprises from Grootvlei, Marievale

Grootvlei and Marievale, both in the Union Corporation group, finish the December dividend season with few surprises.

Commodities

Sugar: 'Astonishing situation in Paris'

An astonishing situation has arisen in the Paris sugar market which strikes at the very basis of commodity trading in that city.

As a result of the recent falls in prices in the Paris market, a trader holding a major position was understood to be unable to meet his margin obligations with the Japanese.

As values had been falling rapidly this would effectively mean that settlement prices would be fixed at levels well in excess of those ruling on the day on which the fall occurred.

Although, Czarnikow says, this must be contrary to all ideas of equity, this view has been upheld by the president of the Paris commercial tribunal.

Meanwhile, the formal reopening of the International White Sugar Futures Market in Paris is unlikely to take place before tomorrow, a senior com-



Mr L. J. Manson, chairman of Cope Allman International, weighing the imponderables.

is an unexpected improvement in the very near future output will be hit and this, coupled with rising costs, will affect current results.

Contrary to the board's expectations the profit and turnover of Graig Shipping last year bounded to peak level and the firm in world wide bulk cargo trading has made a flying start to the current year.

Appledore to advise S Korea shipbuilders

Consultancy support in the establishment of a research and development programme for the fast-expanding shipbuilding industry of South Korea is to be provided by the British firm of Appledore & P.

Shannon going strong

Surrey-based Shannon Group, which is under an agreed takeover bid from Twinlock, in the same field of business systems and office equipment, set only interim profits but also forecasts a big improvement for the full year.

Nat Bk Seattle

The National Bank of Commerce of Seattle is to change its name at the end of this year. It will assume the name of Rainier National Bank after Mount Rainier, one of the highest mountains in the United States.

Brokers' views

The search for "defensive areas" in the stock market brings a sturdy recommendation of shipping industry shares by Tilney.

Japan out of Ok Tedi

Six Japanese copper smelters have decided to withdraw from negotiations on their taking part in further development of Kenepore copper prospect at Ok Tedi in Papua, New Guinea.

By John Woodland

Briefly

GEORGE EWER Six month sales £4.3m (£4.5m) and pre-tax profit £210,000 (£253,000). Interim dividend stays at 0.5p and total should match previous year's 1.5p.

JEVONS COOPER No interim payment (2p) on taxable profit down from £70,000 to £53,000.

HARDY & HANSONS Turnover last year (excluding VAT £5,040,000), giving pre-tax profit £1,070,000. Total dividend up to 7p.

JACKSONS BOURNE END Sales for half year, £1.7m (£1.5m). Taxable profit is £45,000 (£38,000). Dividend held at 1.05p oct.

JOHNSON & FIRTH BROWN Company has acquired the share capital of W. B. White & Sons Limited of Coln, Lancashire, for £50,000, satisfied by the issue of 20,000 ordinary.

WESTPOOL INV Letterbox revenue £128,500 (£102,000) and net asset value 520 (112p) a share.

ALLEN INV On a half-yearly basis of £7.1m (£5,500,000) and pre-tax profit £100,000 (£93,000) after interest £37,000 (£7,000).

Results of British Leyland on Wednesday

In the boardroom session lined up for this pre-holiday week pride of place has to go to British Leyland's final—duo on Wednesday. Other leaders reporting include British Ox

TODAY, Finals.—British C Auction, Cranleigh Group, Cronite, Hanson Trust at Martin. The Newsgate Interims: Atco Oil, Bra Leslie, May & Hassell, Sh. Carpen and Siebe Gorman TOMORROW, Finals. B. geridge Brick, British O. gen, Grenall Whitley a. J. & H. B. Jackson Interim Cooper Industries, Imper Continental Gas, Marl. Montague Meyer, W. E. N. ton, Rothmans International

FRIDAY, Finals.—D. F. Be (Holdings) and North Woods Interims: Adia International, R. F. Hold. Matthew Hall, N. (Jern. Knit, Phoenix Timber Troydale.

THURSDAY, Finals. — A. Stone, and Stenbo Interims: S. & W. Berisf. British Benzol Carbonis Customs Group, English J. Perry, Corp. Graig, Diana H. P. Bulmer, Travis Arnold, Trustees Corp, I. gaze, and Vaux Brewerie

FRIDAY, Finals.—D. F. Be (Holdings) and North Woods Interims: Adia International, R. F. Hold. Matthew Hall, N. (Jern. Knit, Phoenix Timber Troydale.

Jackal pay-off to come in next year

The Jackal still stalks cinema bringing in bumper profits for the producers.

However, although substantial receipts will flow from the "Jackal" to second half, a greater part of the production costs will be written off, and a loss resulting in a complete statement for the full year.

net margins is now intense and that spending could be sharply in the New Year if sure on the pound increase brings credit curbs. The "in" Chaplin's opinion is worth. But the firm agrees

Chaplin will upset the b Marks & Spencer, however its recommendation that shares be sold, because premium over the rest of sector is too high. For Chaplin expects profits of pre-tax from Marks & Spencer.

Meanwhile, gloomy forecasts are not hard to come by. GEC, whose shares are continuing to be recommended by analysts, is the market's relative disappointment in the interim results.

But Chaplin has lowered its projections of profitability in the retail sector over the past month. It fears that pressure on

West Germany, the survey reveals, became the world's leading exporter of semis until Belgium from first place with 211,500 tonnes or 16 per cent of total trade.

West Germany was also the major importing nation with 157,600 tonnes or 12 per cent of total trade.

Total exports by Western countries to the Eastern block were 22,500 tonnes.

The bureau has also published a World Flow Table of Unwrought Aluminium which traces it from production—both primary and secondary—through the full pattern of world trade to consumption.

Canada remained the world's principal exporter in 1973 with 638,500 tonnes or 22.2 per cent of the total, followed by Norway with 576,100 tonnes or 18.3 per cent. The next largest was the United States with 211,100 tonnes.

Japan was the major importing nation with 483,000 tonnes or 15.3 per cent of total trade followed by America.

مكتبة من الاصل

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Banks are charging for research

Leading banks operating in the Eurocurrency market are beginning to exact charges from borrowers to cover the research costs...

Euromarkets

Step towards the narrowing of a market which has contracted substantially since the middle of this year in terms of the number of banks prepared to participate in syndications...

Freight report

Tankers hope to catch price wind

Last week's decision by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) to raise oil prices from January 1 may get tanker owners out of the worst freight market conditions ever experienced...

Weekly list of fixed interest stocks

Table with columns for stock names, prices, and yields. Includes titles like 'All England 7 1/2%', 'All Ireland 7%', etc.

Bond prices (yields and premiums)

Table listing various bond issues, their prices, and yields. Includes '10 1/2% Govt 1981', '10 1/2% Govt 1982', etc.

Unit Trust Prices—change on the week

Table showing unit trust prices and their weekly changes. Includes 'Aberdeen Fund', 'Aberdeen Income', etc.

Times Indices

Table of various indices including 'Index 1974', 'Index 1975', 'Index 1976', etc.

Bank Base Rates

Table listing bank base rates for different terms: '12 months', '6 months', '3 months', etc.

GLOBAL AMERICAN INVESTMENT TRUST LIMITED

Notice regarding the investment trust, including details about shares, dividends, and company information.

Unit Trust Prices—change on the week

Large table of unit trust prices and weekly changes, continuing from the previous section.

Unit Trust Prices—change on the week

Large table of unit trust prices and weekly changes, continuing from the previous section.

BUSINESS NOTICES

Business notices including 'NEWSPAPER FOR SALE', 'DRAWING OF BONDS', and 'PUBLIC NOTICES'.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Public notices including 'CHARITY COMMISSION', 'DRAWING OF BONDS', and 'LEGAL NOTICES'.

BUSINESS NOTICES

Business notices including 'RIDING SCHOOL FOR SALE', 'COMPANY MEETING NOTICES', and 'MISCELLANEOUS FINANCIAL'.

BUSINESS NOTICES

Business notices including 'URUGUAY 5% GOLD BONDS 1974', 'URUGUAY 6 PER CENT LOAN 1974', and 'URUGUAY 5 PER CENT GOVERNMENT CONSOBOND LOAN 1969'.

BUSINESS NOTICES

Business notices including 'URUGUAY 5 PER CENT GOVERNMENT CONSOBOND LOAN 1969' and 'URUGUAY 5 PER CENT GOVERNMENT CONSOBOND LOAN 1969'.

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Secretarial and General Appointments on page 8

STELLA FISHER IN THE STRAND. Stella Fisher leaves from school or Secretarial College... to call. We have a wide range of openings in parts of Central London either with shorthand or dictation, and with or without typing.

EDITORIAL SECRETARY. New Society is looking for a Secretary to work for an Assistant Editor and for the Books Editor. Good shorthand, typing, telephone manner and general ability to cope, are important.

ALL ROUND OFFICE WORK. Architectural photographers need an experienced typist and general office worker who can handle a wide range of office work.

FASHION STORY TO £2,300 PLUS BONUS. Fine spot for first class Secretary at Chairman level in the West End Fashion House.

FREE HOLIDAY IN SPAIN. We will give you a free holiday in Spain if you find your permanent job. Our clients receive a bonus of £1,000.

RECEPTIONIST SECRETARY. West End Fashion Agency. Pleasant atmosphere. Salary negotiable. Apply: 01-499 6291

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AN ACTIVE ROLE MARKETING MANAGER of health care company would like a lively, ambitious SECRETARY to help in things. Salary negotiable around £2,100 and excellent staff benefits. Telephone 580 2030, Linda Petley.

NOT THE END OF THE WORLD! Just the start of a new exciting challenge with a new company. We have a wide range of openings in parts of Central London either with shorthand or dictation, and with or without typing.

JOYCE GUINNESS BUREAU. The place for top jobs. 01-589 8807

TOP SECRETARY/P.A. required by chairman of public company. West End office. Experience of investment and company matters, documents, etc. as advantage. Agreed salary between £3,000 and £3,500 p.a.

BE A ONE MAN GIRL! Business Director of Press subsidiary of Fleet Street news outlet seeking secretary prepared to involve herself in all his office routines and take full responsibility in her stride.

SENIOR COPY TYPIST TO £2,500 PLUS BONUS. Opening to top Merchant Bank for efficient and experienced young copy typist who can handle a wide range of office work.

GRADUATES with secretarial training for temporary office work. West End office. Pleasant atmosphere. Salary negotiable. Apply: 01-499 6291

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DOMESTIC SITUATIONS REQUIRED. AM PAIRS & PAYING Guests placed in the home. 01-499 6291

1974 JAGUAR XJ6. Left hand drive, manual 4.2 litre, 2000 cc. 01-499 6291

CHIPSTEAD OF KENSINGTON. NEW MERCEDES-BENZ. 01-727 0611

DATSUN 240 KGT (AUTOMATIC) COMPANY EXECUTIVE'S CAR. 01-723 8991

JAGUAR E TYPE V12 ROADSTER. Midnight blue auto. A month old. 01-723 8991

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1906 RENAULT. Fully restored, finished in maroon with gold-leaf edging and black leather upholstery. Offers around £6,000. REYNOLDS OF CAMBRIDGE LTD. Tel.: Cambridge 65441.

ROLLS-ROYCE & BENTLEY. 1ST CLASS. Bentley 5.4 litre, 6 cylinder, 1974. 01-499 6291

SILVER SHADOW. Dark olive with brown leather. 01-499 6291

YOUNG PROFESSIONAL DISC-JOCKEY. depressed by the lack of opportunity for self-expression in the rapidly-expanding world of disc-jockeying. 01-499 6291

FLAT SHARING. QUILWICH. Top floor of family house. 01-499 6291

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AROUND TOWN FLATS. BUCKINGHAM PALACE. W11. 01-499 6291

LANDLORDS. May we appeal to all owners of furnished property? 01-499 6291

MAYFAIR. Luxury 2 bedroomed flat. 01-499 6291

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BBC 2. 1.00, Pophill Mill. 6.30 pm, Intercontinental Tennis from Melbourne. 7.45, Look, Stranger: Cricket at the Spout. 8.10, The Watch. 8.45, Call the Bluff. 9.25, Horizon: The Neglected Harvest-Wood. 10.15, Second City Firsts: The Village of Poacher, by Ian Taylor. 10.45, Duncan Grant at Charleston. 11.20, News. 11.50-11.55, Frank Windsor reads Wizo Christmas, by W. K. Rodgers.

ATV. 10.05 am, Secret Menidia. 10.30, Film: Fort Afrique. 12.00, Thames 1.20 pm, Lunchtime Newsweek. 1.30, Thames. 3.00 Film: Best Me after the Show. 4.25, Thames. 4.00, ATV. Citizens' Rights. 11.00, George Cany. 11.10-12.05 am, Ripside.

Southern. 10.00 am, Captain January. 10.30, Film: The Ship. 12.00, Thames 1.20 pm, Lunchtime Newsweek. 1.30, Thames. 3.00 Film: Best Me after the Show. 4.25, Thames. 4.00, ATV. Citizens' Rights. 11.00, George Cany. 11.10-12.05 am, Ripside.

Yorkshire. 10.55 am, Michael Rantala. 11.00, News. 11.30, Film: The Ship. 12.00, Thames 1.20 pm, Lunchtime Newsweek. 1.30, Thames. 3.00 Film: Best Me after the Show. 4.25, Thames. 4.00, ATV. Citizens' Rights. 11.00, George Cany. 11.10-12.05 am, Ripside.

ASSURED ADVERTISING To place an advertisement in any of these categories...

BIRTHS BURNESS—On 15th December, 1974, at the London Clinic...

MARRIAGE MORRIS & ELLEN—On December 15th, 1974, at St. Andrew's Church...

DEATHS BURTON—On December 15th, 1974, at the London Clinic...

DEATHS BURTON—On December 15th, 1974, at the London Clinic...

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PERSONAL COLUMNS also on page 23

ANNOUNCEMENTS A SAFE INVESTMENT WITH A HIGH YIELD FOR WINTER RESIDENTS AT MOSTYN HOTEL EASTBOURNE

ANNOUNCEMENTS THE IRISH GEORGIAN SOCIETY Lecture and Christmas Party

ANNOUNCEMENTS AFRICA (KENYA) SPECIALISTS LOW COST AIR TRAVEL

ANNOUNCEMENTS SKI-SKI-SKI DUTY FREE ANDORRA

ANNOUNCEMENTS THE GASLIGHT A GENTLEMEN'S CLUB

HOLIDAYS AND VILLAS A WINTER YOU'LL ALWAYS REMEMBER WITH SOVEREIGN HOLIDAYS

HOLIDAYS AND VILLAS A WINTER YOU'LL ALWAYS REMEMBER WITH SOVEREIGN HOLIDAYS

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FOR SALE AND WANTED CARPETS EX-HIBITION (20-85p per sq. yd.)

FOR SALE AND WANTED Ideal Home/Olympia/Phil.

FOR SALE AND WANTED RESISTA CARPETS LTD

FOR SALE AND WANTED CARPETS ROCK BOTTOM PRICE

FOR SALE AND WANTED LUXURY BATHROOM SUITE

FOR SALE AND WANTED AUGUSTUS JOHN, Large oil portrait of a lady...

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 13,869

Lonely and Cold at Christmas

Not everyone can look forward to a happy Christmas with friends and good cheer...

GRACIOUS LIVING The advert received approximately 20 replies...

GRACIOUS LIVING Ring 01-837 3311

ANNOUNCEMENTS SKI-SKI-SKI DUTY FREE ANDORRA

ANNOUNCEMENTS THE GASLIGHT A GENTLEMEN'S CLUB

ANNOUNCEMENTS SKI-SKI-SKI DUTY FREE ANDORRA

FOR SALE AND WANTED CARPETS EX-HIBITION

FOR SALE AND WANTED RESISTA CARPETS LTD

FOR SALE AND WANTED LUXURY BATHROOM SUITE